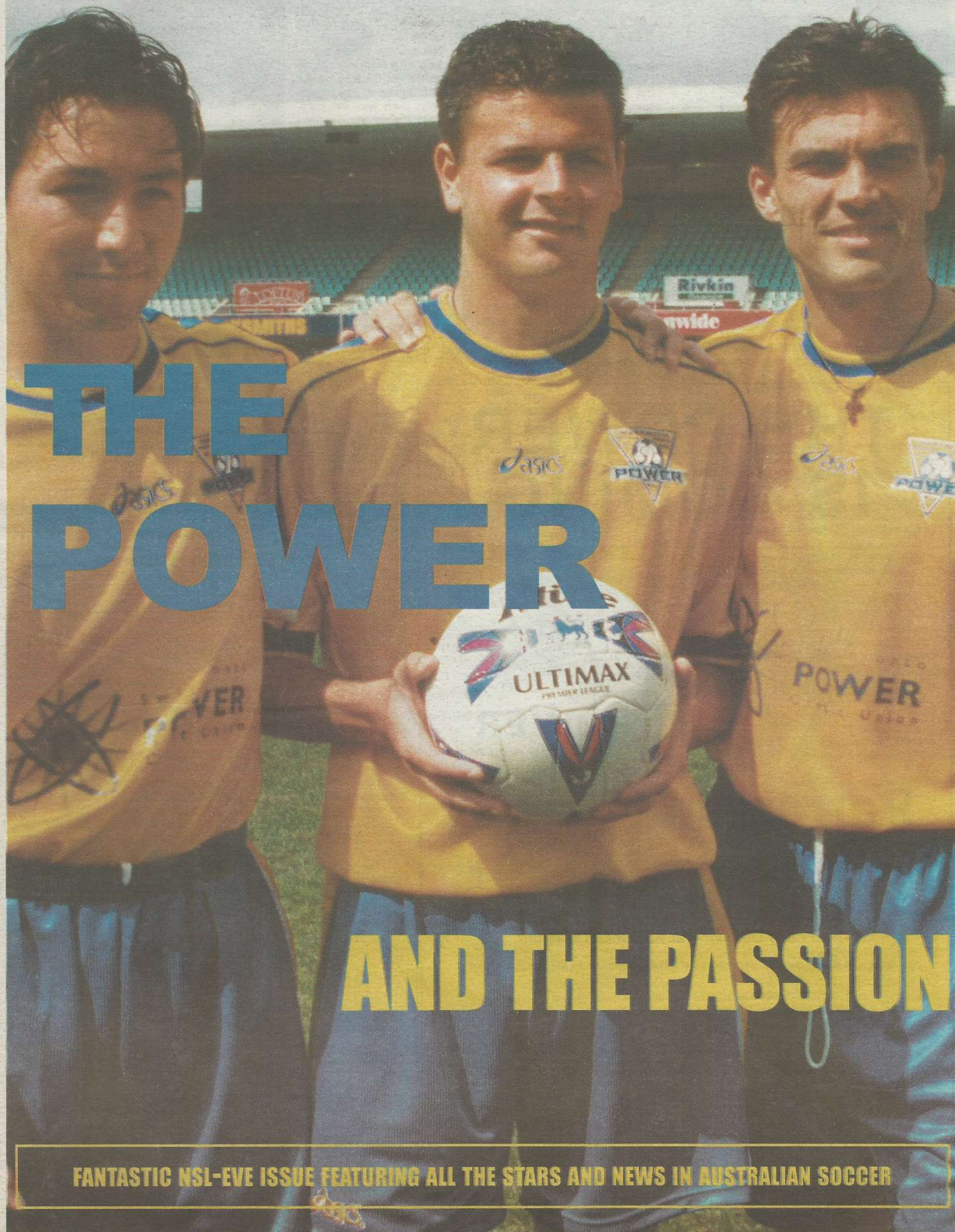


INSIDE SOCCER

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THE POWER

AND THE PASSION

FANTASTIC NSL-EVE ISSUE FEATURING ALL THE STARS AND NEWS IN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

PARRAMATTA POWER

SEASON PREVIEW

By John Vrtaric

The Power was the talk of the NSL off-season almost as soon as the previous season ended. When it applied for inclusion for the upcoming season the Power management took a very brazen approach by announcing its coaching team, sponsor and shirt design weeks before Soccer Australia was to decide its fate.

Backed by the powerful, asset rich Parramatta Leagues Club, Power will be playing its home games at the best football stadium in the country, Parramatta Stadium, or as it is to be renamed for Power games, The Powerhouse.

The Leagues club is one of the biggest clubs in NSW and has over 28,000 members. The club is located in the geographic centre of Sydney, only a

few kilometres from the heartland of the Olympics, Homebush Bay. The community within the surrounding suburbs of the club is made up of a group of people with wide ranging cultural backgrounds.

It is this factor that prompted the Leagues Club to enter a team in the NSL - a large, and growing, proportion of its members are migrants from Europe and Asia, most of them brought up on the traditions of the world game.

As a 'broad-based' community club Power is using the simple, but effective, Northern Spirit marketing model of aligning itself with the junior associations within its boundaries.

The five district associations linked to Power; Blacktown, Granville, Nepean, Bankstown and Macarthur, boast over 30,000 junior players in its competitions. But Power has something that Spirit does not have - the 28,000 Leagues Club

members. The junior players and the leagues club members provide the Power marketing team with a large football friendly target market.

Gains: Starting off from scratch means that Power had to recruit its entire playing and coaching staff. The most important gains were the first ones, the coaching team of David Mitchell and Lawrie McKinna.

Mitchell was offered a contract before the team was officially accepted into the NSL - and it wasn't conditional on Power gaining entry. Such was the confidence of Parramatta Leagues CEO, Dennis Fitzgerald - he believed that they would be part of the NSL, sooner or later.

Having Mitchell and McKinna on board gave Power a head start in the recruitment of players.

Circumstances proved fortuitous for the organisation as Mitchell's old club, Sydney United, minor premiers of last season, was having financial problems and most of the players were off contract at the end of the season.

In one swoop Power gained the services of twelve ready

made, premiership winning, players - only three players remained with United, two of whom joined Power subsequently, via transfer deals.

As well as contracting the entire grand final losing team (except for Velimir Kupresak) Mitchell was able to add substantially to the depth of the squad, something that was missing at United, with the signing of four quality players from other clubs.

The signing of Milan Blagojevic, from Sydney Olympic, and Steve Laybutt, from Brisbane Strikers (to join in December, after a loan spell in Japan), has added considerable experience and class to an already strong squad.

Add the purchase of experienced John Gibson, from Adelaide Sharks, and the improving striker, John Angelucci, from State League club Blacktown City, and Power has the makings of a very strong squad.

KEY PLAYERS

The team has a strong, reliable defence headed by club captain Richard Plesa but the key to the team finishing the season as champions



Power's Olyroo midfielder Jacob Burns

are the midfield duo of Jacob Burns and Milan Blagojevic and the club's main avenue to goals, Mile Sterjovski.

Olyroo Burns had a good season last year but will want to improve on that as he strives for hotly contested positions in the Olympic squad at end of the season.

'In one swoop Power gained the services of twelve ready made premiership winning players'

Blagojevic, on the other hand, is recently returned from stints in Asia and will want to improve on his average year with Sydney Olympic last season.

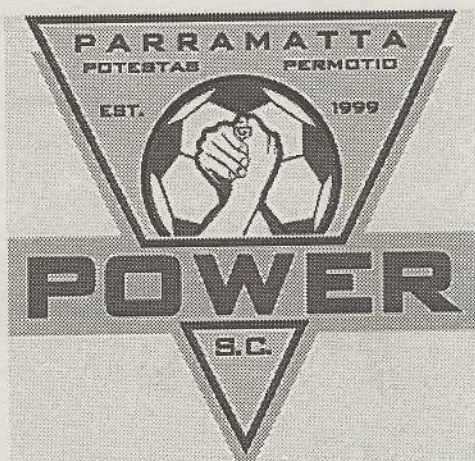
A skillful and versatile player, capable of playing sweeper, midfield or wing back, Blagojevic is likely to be slotted in as midfield general to complement the hard running of Burns and Walter Ardone.

Sterjovski finished as runner-up in the goal scoring stakes last season (behind Pablo Cardozo) and is aiming to go one better this year.

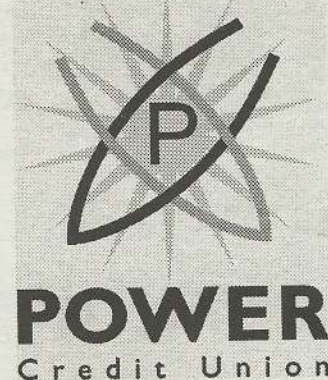
He, too, is looking at an Olympic Games spot with the Olyroos and another hefty tally of goals during the season will help his cause for a striker's position.

CONTINUED PAGE FOUR ...

THE POWER IS COMING



Switch onto



Parramatta Power VS

Marconi Stallions

This Friday October 1 at Parramatta Stadium.

Gates open at 5pm, the youth league begins at 5.15pm followed by the NSL match at 7.30pm

Entertainment galore including

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If you are a junior soccer player in our district and you have not received your free season pass please contact your club.

For season ticket information please contact the Parramatta Power Soccer Club on 9630 9777

Our Community Launch will be held Wednesday 29 September in Church St Mall Parramatta. Everyone welcome to meet the players and get their autographs.

BLOCKBUSTER ISSUE!
FEATURING AUSSIES ABROAD, NSL PREVIEWS PART TWO, SOCCER AUSTRALIA'S GIANT SPONSORSHIP DEAL, JUNIOR SOCCER, GREAT PROMOTIONS AND MUCH MORE.

LAST MINUTE TALKS IN ADELAIDE

At time of going to press, it was 90% certain that the NSL will be a 16-team competition. Feverish talks in Adelaide with the South Australian Federation and other bidders appeared unable to meet the national body's requirements, yet there was still a lingering hope. The final announcement will be known by today.

Adelaide Utd, one of the bidders, said that time was simply too tight to put together a viable proposition. The United bid is hopeful of entering the league next year, but with the rationalisation of the NSL, there is no certainty that a second Adelaide team will be there to join the Adelaide Force.

It is understood that there will only be minor changes to the existing fixtures should it be a 16-team competition. Fortuitously, the Adelaide Sharks/Southern Stars were handed the bye in the first round.

If the expected decision occurs, there are a number of useful players in Adelaide that could be picked up by other sides prior to the league's start this Friday night.

Tomorrow (Wed) Soccer Australia will launch the NSL for season 99/2000, with a naming rights sponsor not expected to be announced on the day.

In other news, Inside Soccer believes that long-serving national staff coach Les Scheinflug is about to moved sideways from his position with the Young Socceroos/Joey's and placed in an 'advisory' role, to be announced before the U/17 World Cup in New Zealand this year.

This role is unclear but we believe Soccer Australia is happy to keep the veteran coach on for the next two years in this new capacity.

There is no shortage of talented young coaches perfectly capable of taking over the coaching of Young Socceroos and Joeys, and perhaps using Scheinflug's knowledge to assist them?

Scheinflug joined the national coaching structure in the 1970s. Our disastrous Nigeria '99 WYC campaign was widely criticised.

A few days after agreeing to see out the season with the Melbourne Knights, Geelong's Olyroo keeper Joey Didulica has signed a two-year contract with European giant Ajax of Amsterdam, reports Roy Hay.

The Knights has negotiated a \$400,000 transfer fee plus 15 per cent of any future fee received by Ajax.

Didulica is overjoyed at this chance of overseas action on which he had set his heart.



Knights' Joe Didulica: Off to Ajax today after the deal was completed over the weekend.

"Words can't describe how I feel at the moment", he said last night.

The transfer saga seemed to have ended in disappointment earlier this month when the Knights refused to release the young keeper without a large fee.

Ajax now finds its reserve keeper is injured and wants Didulica to be on the bench for major games, so it quickly renewed its bid for the Olyroo star who had a successful trial in Holland recently.

The young keeper has used some of his signing on fee to buy his grandfather Joe Radojevic a new car.

Joe Radojevic was one of the prime movers of the Croatian soccer club when it played in Geelong in the 1950s and was involved in the 1960s when the current North Geelong club was started.

Part of his aim was to see his son Joe play soccer, but the latter went on to become the star full forward at Geelong West football club.

Now the wheel comes full circle and his grandson gets the chance to play on the biggest stage of all.

Didulica leaves for Holland today and will be straight into action as soon as the paperwork is completed.

Another highly-talented young Aussie, Jason Culina, is currently at the respected club, while some years ago prodigious talent Hayden Foxe spent some time in their youth system.

Ajax is currently rebuilding after losing several of its Dutch stars who have moved to Barcelona following coach Louis van Gaal, so Didulica may well have timed his run to the top brilliantly.



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GREG BLAKE



C7 SOCCER
COMMENTATOR



Despite apparently being unwanted or ignored at NSL level the great man, Ian Dobson, cannot stop his seemingly relentless winning streak.

As a coach a few years back in Victoria's Premier League, he landed back-to-back championships with unfashionable Altona Magic before taking over the flagging mid-table Melbourne Knights in 1995-6 - re-igniting the flame to steer that club to the second of its consecutive NSL titles.

Not prepared to go full-time with the Knights, Dobson fell back into the relative obscurity of Victorian Premier League, but bobbed up on the winner's dais again this season by taking Green Gully to its first triumph since 1983.

Just as it amazes me that Dobson isn't involved somewhere at NSL level, you've got to wonder how many half decent players in the various state competitions also keep missing the attention of national league scouts.

Melbourne Raiders' George Jolevski recently won a record breaking third consecutive Gold Medal for the best and fairest player in the Victorian Premier League. And whilst there is a fair gulf between state and NSL competition levels these days, I find it a little surprising that struggling local clubs like the Knights or Gippsland aren't sounding out the nuggety utility.

It's not like he isn't proven quality, Jolevski has played nearly 200 NSL games with Preston, Sydney United, Brunswick Juventus, Wollongong and Marconi, where he won a championship medal in 1992/93.

Mind you, if you are playing or coaching at Victorian Premier League level these days it is bloody easy to be ignored, such is the appalling lack of publicity for the game in general in Melbourne.

The fact that Melbourne clubs have won four of the last five national titles, and that the MCG has drawn some bumper crowds for a couple of marquee games, has only just managed to divert attention from the real issue of the apparent absolute contempt the local media appar-

ently has for the local product, at any level.

Platitudes about the blossoming publicity the game is receiving elsewhere might be spot on, but the game is being rear-ended down south.

It's not a shock of course as we've always had to contend with vicious media bias, but coverage of local soccer in Victoria is going backwards with a full head of steam.

The daily papers don't bother if they don't have to, no live radio, little more than the odd curiosity colour piece on network television and no-one seems to care.

The situation even five years ago was considerably better, but the Vics are going backwards in leaps and bounds.

The Victorian Soccer Federation apparently spent its reported \$100,000 publicity/marketing budget on something in 1999. Could somebody tell me on what?

By the end of his stint at the Sharks little Johnny Gibson was apparently copping a bit of bagging by the South Australians, who really ought to be focusing their attention on running their clubs successfully rather than pointing the finger.

Fair enough. It's a bit personal because I like Gibson as a player very much, and always have done so. Point being, it's great for the pocket dynamo getting the nod from David Mitchell at

Parramatta Power and hopefully the former Blacktown, Sydney United, Apia, Adelaide Force and Sharks star will inflict some pay back with interest on his critics this summer. Go Gibbo.

Love the new Marconi outfit, yet couldn't help but notice the stylish new Marconi Stallions jersey logo.

Very saucy indeed and probably worth every shiny penny paid to the Stenmark Marketing team for its recommendations on such a critical issue.

I have no problem at all with the changes, all in the name of keeping up with the Joneses, or Powers, or Spirits, or whatever.

But unless my memory is failing me utterly (a possibility, I concede), was it not the Marconi club which very publicly led the push to reject the concept of the every same type of cosmetic changes when the David Hill-led administration tried to manoeuvre league-wide changes of this nature a few years ago back?

As I recall, Marconi - egged on by a few lesser clubs - was prepared to declare and lead a Holy war against Soccer Australia on the issue at the time.

Mind you, the whole thing became a non-issue anyway when Hill's grand vision of a so-called national marketing and merchandising strategy for the NSL died in the water without so much as a whimper in double quick time.

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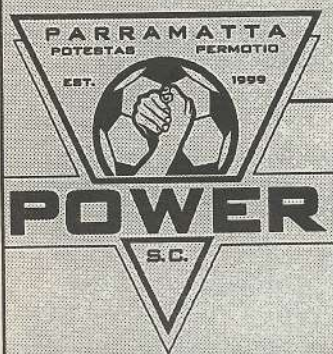
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Young Power player Daniel Kukucka with Danny Townsend to his left.

Continued from page two

YOUNG PLAYER TO WATCH

In a relatively experienced, although young team, Sterjovski and striking partner Joel Griffiths are the rising stars.

Sterjovski needs to build on a successful 98-99 season and increase his goal tally while Griffiths is aiming to become a regular in the first team and consolidate on his introduction to the big time last year.

KEY TO SUCCESS

The coaching team of Mitchell and McKinna is the key to Power success. With two extraordinarily successful seasons behind them the pressure will be on the pair to achieve for the third year straight.

Although with a brand new club they are fortunate to have a ready made team with only a couple of new players to blend in with the regulars.

They will be under a different type of pressure this year as they are expected to succeed, unlike last year when they were underdogs and over achieved.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Power is one of the strongest clubs financially with only Glory, Spirit and Marconi able to match its first year budget of \$3million.

The Parramatta Leagues Club is providing funding to the tune of \$1million in the first two years and \$500,000 over the ensuing three years.

Power Credit Union, based in Parramatta, is the major sponsor for this year and is believed to be providing a very healthy amount.



POWER SQUAD FOR SEASON 99/2000

- 1 Andrew Crews
- 2 David Barrett
- 3 Michael Santalab
- 4 Steve Eagleton
- 5 Richard Plesa

- 6 Joe Vrkic
- 7 Jacob Burns
- 8 Walter Ardone
- 9 Mile Sterjovski
- 10 Joel Griffiths
- 11 Steve Berry
- 12 Milan Blagojevic
- 13 Steve Laybutt
- 14 John Angelucci (right)
- 15 Danny Townsend
- 17 Danny Kukucka
- 18 Lachlan Campbell
- 19 Matt Thompson
- 20 Barney Smith
- 21 Ahmed Elrich
- 23 John Gibson
- 28 Peter Bennett



The club also has acquired sleeve sponsors, Toshiba, as well as a number of other smaller sponsors.

The club has budgeted for an average crowd of 10,000, but is hoping to emulate the success story of Spirit. The current five-year plan shows the club breaking even in the third year and becoming self supporting. The club, at this stage, is financially as well off as any club in the NSL.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Power is basically adopting a three pronged marketing strategy - targeting three distinct groups - junior players, along with their parents, from the junior associations within their boundaries; the 28,000 Leagues Club members; and the community in general within the western suburbs of Sydney.

PREDICTION

Power has all the players that finished minor premiers and reached the grand final last season and as such are entitled to be amongst the favourites, if not favourite.

The addition of Blagojevic, Laybutt and Gibson gives the team more class and greater depth than last year's Sydney United team and a position in the top two is a realistic target.

SAMBA SOCCER IN PARRAMATTA!

By Aidan Ormond

Last Wednesday at the 'Powerhouse' (Parramatta Stadium) new NSL club Parramatta Power staged their own version of 'Carnivale' with the unveiling of a Brazil style kit for the inaugural season.



Powerful Power skipper Richard Plesa with (L to R) Andrew Crews, Joe Vrkic and Joel Griffiths.

While staying true to Parramatta's traditional blue and gold, the Power kit adds white socks to give it that authentic 'samba soccer' look, which got the thumbs up from the large group of assembled TV crews.

The media call was also the official announcement of Power's sponsors. Power Credit Union - the club's main sponsor - will be on the shirts of David Mitchell's team, while Ford Power and Toshiba will also appear on the kit.

Power Credit Union was, perhaps aptly, the main sponsor of a club with such a name, "a match made in heaven" as it was put by the company's CEO Vince Del Zio.

"We are a non-profit organisation that genuinely looks after the needs of our members and the communities we serve. It is a natural fit for us to help develop our youth and sport in Parramatta through a mutually beneficial agreement whereby we all win," added Del Zio.

Power's administration has stated in the past that it hopes to achieve financial independence from its main benefactor, the Parramatta Leagues Club, in three years.

Perhaps with so many companies using Power in their name, the club's marketers had one eye on business when naming it Power?

The launch itself was rather low-key, reflecting the club's working class and "community roots", a point made by club marketing manager Lawrie McKinna, who said there would be no "sports cars driving around the ground" (a veiled reference to the recent Marconi Stallions launch?).

Needless to say, this Friday night's game against Marconi has much riding on it - both on and off the field - with the battle for the hearts and minds of the, mainly young, soccer fans in Sydney's sprawling west vital to both clubs.

"It's a good time to be involved with the great sport of soccer," said new Power GM Brad Levy. "The fact that Perth Glory and Northern Spirit have done so well, and now with the Football Kingz and Parramatta Power coming on board the sponsors can now see a value in being involved in a sport that is really on the rise.

"We'd like to be able to be self-sufficient down the track. Obviously we have been very fortunate that the Parramatta Leagues Club has been able to support us, but what we need to do is to attract sponsors and community support, and I think that is achievable.

"There is so much enthusiasm around the place, and yes it has been hectic for us!"



Power Credit Union's Vince Del Zio meets the soccer media at Parramatta Stadium

The launch received coverage from at least two Sydney TV stations, which is the main purpose of such an exercise: free publicity on mainstream media outlets.

The excitement around this team is starting to build, and with just three days to go before the kick-off this Friday night at Parramatta Stadium, a 20,000 crowd is not impossible.

Tickets are available from Parramatta Leagues Club and Ticketek.

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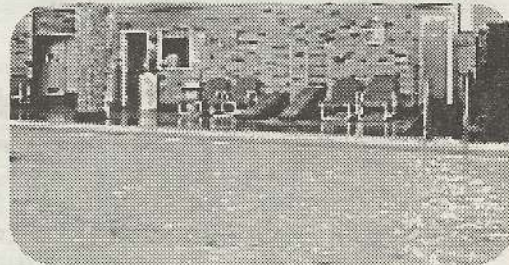
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SEOUL BROTHERS!



Christopher Kim (c) with Basil Scarsella (l) and IMG's Martin Jolly, looking, well, jolly!

By Aidan Ormond

The Socceroos are officially now the LG Socceroos. Soccer Australia, through its agency agreement with IMG, has struck a sponsorship deal with the Korea-based global consumer electronics manufacturer LG Electronics (LGE) that is worth \$4million over two years, with an optional third year.

This deal effectively takes us up to the last game of our World Cup qualifiers for the 2002 World Cup.

At last week's announcement, at Sydney's Star City casino, the deal was announced to a large media contingent, although the actual details of how the money will be distributed was largely left undressed, probably because the deal was not struck until the previous Friday (where we believe some last minute 'fine-tuning' went on.)

The Managing Director of LG Electronics Australia Pty Ltd, Mr Christopher Kim, was clearly comfortable dealing with the media, as he related his childhood days as a keen soccer player and his wish to "check every home in Australia" for LGE products. He stressed the vision of the company was to be "the biggest of its kind by 2005". The Global Game thus seemed a natural partner.

"Playing such a key part in soccer world-wide and particularly throughout Asia, Australia is a natural extension of

our global strategy," he added.

The LG Socceroos qualifying for World Cup 2002 in Korea and Japan was not lost on Mr Kim, who hoped our national team would play its first World Cup game in Seoul (the head-office location of LGE.)

The deal involves naming rights for the Socceroos, Olyroos, Young Socceroos and through to grass-roots level, where it is believed the Bill Turner



Life's Good with LG?

Cup Schools tournament (the largest of its kind) will benefit from an as yet undisclosed increase in funding.

Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella made mention of the fact that the sponsorship dollar "was in fierce demand" and that he felt LG's investment was going to be "worthwhile."

As for how the money was to be distributed, he said it "depended on the timing."

"At the moment Soccer Australia is involved with our Joeys' U/17 World Cup and the Olyroos leading up to 2000, thereafter the focus will be on the Socceroos," added Scarsella.

S-NEWS

INSIDE SOCCER'S
AUSTRALIAN NEWS
AND GOSS

AMERICAN EXPRESS AND CARLTON SIGN HUGE DEAL

Greg Blake reports that today in Melbourne Carlton is expected to make the official announcement of a major sponsorship from American Express, in a deal which he believes will run over six years. If his mail is correct the Blues will be sitting quite nicely financially with both high-profile major and peripheral sponsorships in place. Nike's Carlton strip will also be displayed. The team leaves this Thursday for their Friday night date with the Kingz.

COSMOS CALENDAR?

Ladies, the boys of the Cosmos Calendar is currently on the drawing table. The club has signed up four of its players to handle their promotions and marketing and this, along with many other ideas, is on the agenda. Cosmos players are also featured on the side of buses in Canberra. All stops Cosmos! And it must be working: Cosmos 1 Power 0 in a friendly!! All Cosmos games are Friday night this year.

A NEW COMMISH.

Soccer Australia has appointed a new person to the Board of Commissioners. Ms Cheryl Bart is the new addition to the Soccer Family (don't you love that phrase). She is a lawyer, and holds degrees as a Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing). Ms Bart currently serves as Chairman of the Australian Sports Foundation. She replaces Sue Baker-Finch.

FORGET HOTMAIL, HERE'S SPIRITMAIL!

As part of the ongoing preparation and planning for the upcoming season, Northern Spirit will have a major rebuild of its website. New features will include: FREE web email, fans forum, online shopping and many other features. Carlton is also getting in on the E-commerce act with their net site.

EMO WANTS TO PLAY FOR MAN UTD

Brett Emerton only wants the best. The flying wingback with the wicked sports car said to Inside Soccer last week that his choice of overseas club was Man Utd. You can't say the Olyroo captain hasn't got his sights set too low, now can you. And speaking of the Olyroos, 160,000 tickets have been sold outside of Sydney for Olympic Football games.

AIDAN TOBIN?

Socceroo legend Alex Tobin knows how to butter up Inside Soccer. Should the big man's child be a boy, due in January, he wants to call him Aidan Tobin. Great choice

Alex! And the Force captain says the redeveloped Hindmarsh Stadium looks "sensational" and will be the best soccer stadium in the NSL. Force also plays Friday nights this year.

DARLING HARBOUR SOCCER

October 6 will see the NSW Soccer Fed, in conjunction with NSW-based NSL clubs, hold a soccer promotion at Darling Harbour. It will be held at Tumbalong Park at 11.30am. There will be games, coaching and tickets and poster giveaways. Should be worth getting out to.

TYPICAL LADDISH STUFF

At their Sorrento training camp a couple of (named) Carlton lads completely rearranged Dean Anastasiadis' room, so when the keeper returned he became decidedly confused as to where he actually was! By the way, Carlton is airing radio ads on MMM and 3AW in an effort to bring in the fans for their Friday night games.

INSIDE SOCCER IN EAST TIMOR

Currently issues of Inside Soccer are being read by our peacekeepers in East Timor. Some of our subscribers are in the Australian military currently serving on the troubled island. We wish them a safe tour of duty.

MORE LAUNCHES

Newcastle Breakers and Northern Spirit will hold their season launches today (Tuesday). Last week Newcastle beat local champions Hamilton Olympic 8-0. Breakers fielded one side in the first half and a different one in the second. They play another Olympic, Sydney, this Sunday in the first NSL game of the year. A good omen?

OUR STARS WILL MAKE IT

Word from Brazil, via an Internet mate, is that the Brazilian team for the upcoming Socceroo games will be their U/23 side. Mind you, who cares when Harry, Bozza, The V-Bomber, The Okonmeister and Ned are due back.

TAKEAWAY KINGZ?

Trust the Kiwis to come up with Kingz FC writes Greg Blake. In case one particular potential sponsor hasn't twigged to it yet, the new franchise name abbreviated scrubs up as KFC. Want fries with that? And *Studs Up* head honcho Kevin Christopher reports that the official Konica team squad list from the WCC qualifiers confirms the presence of defender Rimoni Mc Carthy, midfielders Diamond Ott and Sipaia One and striker Monkey Keli. And the coach is Junior Ott. So what does that make the player, assuming the coach is his father?

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Spirit's Ian Crook: This will be a busy year for the former Spurs player.

SPIRIT SQUAD AND NUMBERS

- 1: John Perosh; Keeper
 - 2: Robert Enes; Defence/Midfield
 - 3: Matthew Langdon; Midfield
 - 4: Matthew Bingley; Defence/Midfield
 - 5: Mark Rudan; Defence
 - 6: Luke Casserly; Wingback
 - 7: Robbie Slater; Midfield
 - 8: Tony Perinich; Striker
 - 9: David Seal; Striker
 - 10: Clayton Zane; Striker
 - 11: Troy Cranney; Midfield
 - 12: Simon Catanzaro; Striker
 - 13: Phillip Moss; Defence/Midfield
 - 14: Shane Lyons; Midfield
 - 15: Antonio Faria; Striker
 - 17: Paul Bilokapic; Midfield/Defence
 - 18: Paul Wearne; Midfield
 - 19: Graham Arnold; Striker/Sweeper
 - 20: Jess Van Stratten; Keeper
 - 21: Michael Cunico; Midfield
 - 22: Paul Henderson; Keeper
 - 23: Adam Snyder; Striker
 - 24: Elvis Orlic; Sweeper
 - 25: Ryan Griffiths; Striker
 - 26: Jack Sobczyk; Defender
 - 27: Adam Griffiths; Midfield
 - 28: Ian Crook; Defence/Midfield
- Losses in off-season**
- Gabriel Mendez Sydney Olympic
Kresimir Marusic Belgium
Eddy Bosnar Sydney Utd
Peter Blazincic Adelaide
Daniel Watkins Canberra (loan)
Paul Foster Brisbane Strikers
Adem Poric Released
James Stubbs-Mills Released

By Aidan Ormond

To say last season - their inaugural in the NSL - was a raging success is probably an understatement. The side on the field achieved its goal of a top six spot while off the field an average of almost 15,000 flocked to Friday night Football at North Sydney Oval.

The club's success, on the back of a similar scenario in Perth, put the wind up some traditional clubs and showed the way for a new Sydney club, Parramatta Power.

Spirit has also perfected the art of supporter involvement. The 'Bob Standers', who give a constant and passionate singing support to their heroes, are an integral part of the club's success, providing some of the wonderful atmosphere and valuable fan feedback.

It's the closest thing you'll get to a Euro game, and it's all documented in the supporter fanzine.

Coupled with the vociferous fans are the families, a main target of Spirit's mar-

keting. The 'Soccermums' and their kids form a large part of the club's support. Together these fans, with the 'Friday night suits' and Northern Beaches teenagers provide a non-threatening and carnival feel to the home games.

If more successful on the park, the average of just fewer than 15,000 is likely to be exceeded. And fortunately for the other Sydney clubs (and beyond in some cases), the Spirit fans don't mind travelling.

The Power versus Spirit game at Parramatta Stadium looms as a blockbuster, while this Monday's season opener against Sydney United at Edensor Park is likely to be a nice earner for the cash-strapped Pumas.

Coach Graham Arnold, in his second year, will have learnt plenty from his rookie season. Is still a useful striker (he has done the pre-season as a player) and his Soccerroo commitments with Frank Farina should, at least for this season, be manageable.

KEY PLAYERS

Robbie Slater: Is still front and centre of Spirit on the park. His fitness is there and there would be nothing he would love more than to win a championship medal and go on to play in the WCC in 2001. Likely to play wide right he is still one of the best in the league, capable of bringing out the best in those around him.

David Seal: Was brought in to solve the side's biggest problem: a regular goalscorer. If the side had a twenty-goal-a-season striker last year, they may well have won the league, yet they consistently struggled where it mattered. Seal can finish, and if his current ankle injury can be cured, and he stays free of injury, he is good enough to do the business. Initially he is likely to partner Arnold up-front given the injury to striker Tony Perinich.

Paul 'Hendo' Henderson: Not only was the affable Henderson a crowd favourite, but his keeping saved valuable points. Without doubt the find of the year, particularly as he was brought in as a third choice keeper. If he maintains his form, and the strikers do their job, this could be a golden year.

Ian Crook: Again he will be a valuable rock on which to build what may be a younger side than last year. One of the best passers of a ball, the former English professional will also take on extra responsibilities of coaching when Arnold is away with the Soccerroos. Being injury-prone is the only concern.

YOUNG PLAYERS TO WATCH

Antonio Faria: We caught a glimpse of his talent late last season. The player, with the East Timorese background, gave the, at times, lumbering Spirit a spring in its step with his athleticism and ability to take on a man wide on the left. If he can get down the flanks and have the opposition defence turning, his service should be integral to the scoring tally.

Matt Langdon: Will probably compete with Faria for a position wide left. His contribution last season was superb. Unlucky to miss out on Young Soccerroo selection for WYC 99 in Nigeria.

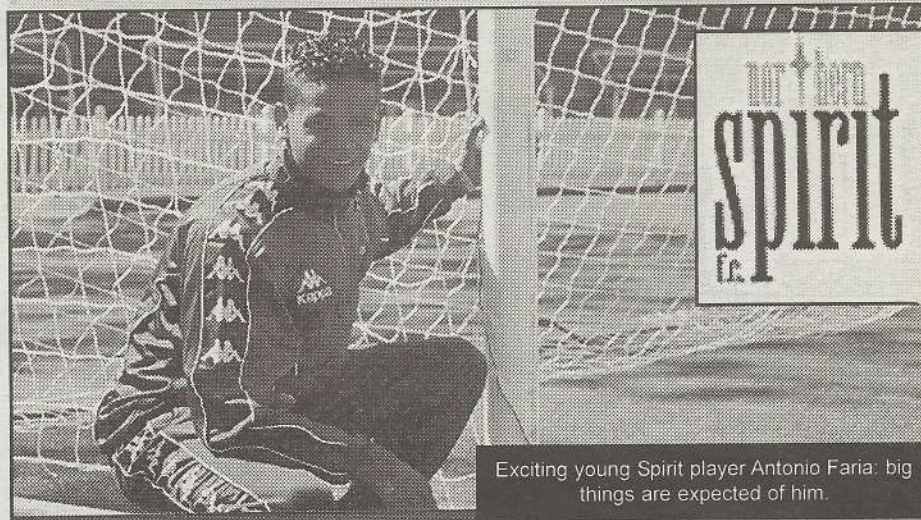
Simon Catanzaro: He has shown enough in the practice games to suggest he can score. Could perhaps do one better than last season's fringe young striker Danny Watkins? (Now on loan to Cosmos.)

FINANCIAL SITUATION AND MARKETING

Any new business does not expect to make a profit in its first few years of operation. The club has spent big on players and marketing but expects to yield a

NORTHERN SPIRIT

SEASON PREVIEW



Exciting young Spirit player Antonio Faria: big things are expected of him.

large return in its third year. Another good yield through the turnstiles will ensure profits will start to flow in sooner rather than later.

The marketing of Spirit has been one of the major successes of the club. It is clearly a community-based operation, topped up with a modest amount of advertising. The club has targeted the up to 20,000 juniors in the northern beaches, and has forged a close relationship with its local associations. Spirit is very much 'their' team. The use of Harry Kewell as its 'number one supporter' has been used in its advertising, while this year promotional alliances have been struck with major radio stations.

KEY TO SUCCESS

A goalscorer. Simple as that. If Seal, together with Zane, Perinich, Arnold and Catanzaro, can put away the chances then it will be a bright future. The defensive firm of Crook, Bilokapic and Rudan should ensure a tight grip is kept on the goals against, while Troy Cranney's long-awaited return should shore up a midfield that has lost Marusic, Poric and Mendez.

Width will also be essential. Without the midfield spark (and goals) of Marusic

(currently in Belgium) the strikers will need their wide support players to find the by-line and get behind the opposing defenders. If Casserly, Faria, Slater and Langdon can get the defences turning - instead of always facing - they can cause damage if their service is right.

Last season the all-too-predictable long ball and lack of width made it easy for defences to read Spirit. A player like Faria, who can take on defenders and get the crosses in, will be integral to any success.

PERFORMANCE FORECAST

A definite top six. Making the top two (and an almost certain grand final berth) will depend on Seal and co.'s degree of success in finding the net. Everywhere else looks strong enough within the side. Time has solved the difficulties of starting from scratch last year and the squad has enough depth to cover the inevitable injuries and suspensions.

All-round it is a strong squad with fantastic terrace support that only requires the icing on the cake of a regular goalscorer(s), to bring some real success to an already booming organization.

FIXTURES 99/2000

*subject to change

4/10/99	Sydney United
Edensor Park	
10/10/99	South Melbourne
Bob Jane Stadium	
15/10/99	Newcastle Breakers
North Sydney Oval	
22/10/99	Adelaide Sharks
Hindmarsh Stadium	
29/10/99	Sydney Olympic
North Sydney Oval	
7/11/99	Wollongong Wolves
Brandon Park	
19/11/99	Auckland Kings
North Sydney Oval	
27/11/99	Gippsland Falcons
Mobil Park	
3/12/99	Marconi Stallions
North Sydney Oval	
12/12/99	Melbourne Knights
Knights Park	
17/12/99	Adelaide Force
North Sydney Oval	
26/12/99	Canberra Cosmos
Bruce Stadium	
2/01/00	Brisbane Strikers
North Sydney Oval	
7/01/00	Sydney United
North Sydney Oval	
14/01/00	Perth Glory
North Sydney Oval	
21/01/00	Carlton

Olympic Park	Carlton
26/01/00	
North Sydney Oval	
28/01/00	Parramatta Power
Parramatta Stadium	
4/02/00	South Melbourne
North Sydney Oval	
11/02/00	Newcastle Breakers
Breakers Stadium	
18/02/00	Adelaide Sharks
North Sydney Oval	
27/02/00	Sydney Olympic
Belmore Oval	
3/03/00	Wollongong Wolves
North Sydney Oval	
17/03/00	Auckland Kings
Olympic Park	
24/03/00	Gippsland Falcons
North Sydney Oval	
2/04/00	Marconi Stallions
Marconi Stadium	
7/04/00	Melbourne Knights
North Sydney Oval	
14/04/00	Adelaide Force
Hindmarsh Stadium	
21/04/00	Canberra Cosmos
North Sydney Oval	
29/04/00	Brisbane Strikers
Suncorp Stadium	
5/05/00	Parramatta Power
North Sydney Oval	
14/05/00	Perth Glory
Perth Oval	



Kingz hardman Chris Jackson

By Bruce Holloway

Discounting Adelaide Sharks, it's hard to imagine any team facing more of an uphill battle this season than the Football Kingz.

New Zealand's historic first entry into the NSL is a completely new entity. A privately-owned concern, the Kingz have no playing history, scant administrative background, and even less supporter heritage behind them as they dip a toe into Aussie waters.

It is an enormous task to build a professional club from scratch within a couple of months. There has been no lower league for them to prove themselves in, no prototype for them to follow in New Zealand, and no past record of achievement.

They have an inexperienced coach in Wynton Rufer, a new home ground (North Harbour Stadium, Albany), and just a handful of players who they have roped together from all over the place.

FOOTBALL KINGZ

SEASON PREVIEW

To complicate matters, before they'd even played a game they changed their name from the Football Kings to Football Kingz.

Club management vigorously deny this was to avoid threatened legal action from Sydney Kings basketball franchise, touting it as a slice of marketing genius (bringing the letters NZ into their name).

Let's just hope they don't now find themselves taken to court by some Bronx graffiti artist — as one Sitter! contributor has predicted.

On the eve of their season debut The Kingz still have so many problems to iron out, they might as well have called them-

Mennillo, gifted Solomon Islander Batram Suri and former All White target man Fred de Jong and you have the guts of the team.

Middleby has been playing for German second division side Bayer Uerdingen for the past three seasons, while Mennillo, 23, was left winger with Adelaide City.

The Kingz have been trialling two young players from Chile's Div 1 Colo Colo club: defender Davis Castillo and Striker Aaron Vives, along with Brazilian Marciel Ednilson.

Rufer said he hoped their presence would encourage Auckland's Chilean pop-



The Legend: All-White and Kingz player/coach Wynton Rufer

on Gavin Wilkinson — who "signed" for the Kingz way back in June, but has since decided the piece of paper he scrawled on didn't constitute a contract, and has since been trialling with Aberdeen, Barnsley and Queen's Park Rangers (believed to have since returned? Ed).

Player-coach Rufer is still recovering from an achilles tendon operation and shoulder surgery. It's going to be a big test for Oceania's player of the century. It's 19 years since he made his international debut, and approaching 38, there must be doubts about how much on-field action he'll see.

Nevertheless, the cynics will argue he is still much more valuable on the field than in the coaching dugout.

Home advantage and home support could be important for the Kingz, with chairman Chris Turner predicting a sell-out (25,000) crowd for their opening match against Carlton.

The one thing Kiwi fans love is success against Australians. The trick for the Kingz will be performing well enough to get the 25,000 to return for subsequent matches.



Kingz Marcus Stergiopoulos

KINGZ SQUAD:

WYNTON RUFER (PLAYER-COACH), FRED DE JONG, IVAN VICELICH, BATRAM SURI, RIKI VAN STEEDEN, STU RIDDLE, JONATHAN PERRY, HARRY NGATA (CAPTAIN), LEE JONES, JASON BATTY, CHRIS JACKSON, CHE BUNCE, DAVID MOYA, AARON SILVA, MARCIEL EDNILSON, DINO MENNILLO, ROBERT MIDDLEBY, MARCUS STERGIOPOULOS, LEVANT OSMAN, FABIO MACOLINO

selves: The Kinks.

The Kingz have however created enormous goodwill, as various associations have made a fortune hosting practice matches where our new hybrid team has shown it has all the fascination of the bearded lady at the circus.

Indeed, if there has been a pre-season criticism of the Kingz it is that they have been in carnival mode.

They've got some useful players, but have stumbled through a series of odd-goal warm-up wins against modest provincial lineups without ever impressing.

Chris Jackson, veteran of 44 matches for the All Whites and former pro with Tampines Rovers (Singapore) will be full of graft in the midfield engine room, alongside Marcus Stergiopoulos. (If you fancy a wager on the first Kingz player to be booked in Aussie competition, look no further.)

Fellow All-White Ivan Vicelich is a classy defender, who has mastered the art of doing the absolute minimum and the happy knack of scoring important goals.

Michael Utting is a temporary signing, and is as good a keeper to come out of New Zealand in the last 20 years.

Picked up a cup medal with South African club Supersport United last season, and is sniffing around for a big contract in Europe.

Meanwhile he's slumming it with the Kingz, which is good because permanent keeper Jason Batty could be requiring a hernia operation.

The remainder of the All Whites contingent includes Jonathan Perry, a former Junior All-White captain and Barnsley apprentice; raw-boned defender Che Bunce, who has been playing professionally in Iceland, and striker Harry Ngata.

Throw in Aussies Fabio Macolino, Robbie Middleby and the muscular Dino

ulation to get behind the team.

It must be said, this has not been universally well received, with others suggesting if they found room for a few more New Zealanders, hell, they might get Auckland's even-larger Kiwi population supporting the side.

Meanwhile the Kingz have given up

FIXTURES 99/2000 **subject to change

1-Oct-99	Carlton	26-Jan-00	Perth Glory
North Harbour Stadium		Perth Oval	
10-Oct-99	Sydney United	29-Jan-00	Brisbane Strikers
Edensor Park		Suncorp Stadium	
15-Oct-99	South Melbourne	4-Feb-00	Sydney United
North Harbour Stadium		North Harbour Stadium	
22-Oct-99	Newcastle Breakers	13-Feb-00	South Melbourne
Breakers Stadium		Bob Jane Stadium	
29-Oct-99	Adelaide Sharks	18-Feb-00	Newcastle Breakers
North Harbour Stadium		North Harbour Stadium	
7-Nov-99	Sydney Olympic	25-Feb-00	Adelaide Sharks
Belmore Oval		Hindmarsh Stadium	
12-Nov-99	Wollongong Wolves	3-Mar-00	Sydney Olympic
North Harbour Stadium		North Harbour Stadium	
19-Nov-99	Northern Spirit	12-Mar-00	Wollongong Wolves
North Sydney Oval		Brandon Park	
4-Dec-99	Gippsland Falcons	17-Mar-00	Northern Spirit
North Harbour Stadium		Olympic Park	
12-Dec-99	Marconi Stallions	1-Apr-00	Gippsland Falcons
Marconi Stadium		Mobil Park	
17-Dec-99	Melbourne Knights	7-Apr-00	Marconi Stallions
North Harbour Stadium		North Harbour Stadium	
26-Dec-99	Adelaide Force	16-Apr-00	Melbourne Knights
Hindmarsh Stadium		Knights Park	
2-Jan-00	Canberra Cosmos	21-Apr-00	Adelaide Force
North Harbour Stadium		North Harbour Stadium	
7-Jan-00	Carlton	28-Apr-00	Canberra Cosmos
Olympic Park		Bruce Stadium	
14-Jan-00	Parramatta Power	5-May-00	Brisbane Strikers
North Harbour Stadium		North Harbour Stadium	
21-Jan-00	Perth Glory	12-May-00	Parramatta Power
North Harbour Stadium		Parramatta Stadium	

SITTER!
The New Zealand soccer fanzine
You wouldn't want to miss it
No 37, September 1999

A night out in Mexico
with Michael Utting



SITTER!

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'ONE OF THE BEST FANZINES
AROUND.'

INSIDE SOCCER

PERTH GLORY

SEASON PREVIEW

By Dennis Gedling

To say Perth Glory achieved all their goals last season is a massive understatement. A nine match unbeaten run, a finals series that fell one game short of the grand final and defeats against all top six sides made for a season of growing maturity and welcomed success.

Whilst the first season under Perth coach Gary Marocchi surprised many,

Markoski left off (Markovski was sidelined with a calf problem) scoring consistently to leave the Glory finishing in third place overall.

Major highlights of the home and away season were two wins over Sydney United who finished top, wins over all other top six teams at least once and sterling efforts from some of the lesser known players.

The finals series saw Glory drawn to play Adelaide City. The first leg of the elimination final was played at Hindmarsh and the Glory managed to hang on for a 0-0 result.

The hype surrounding the return leg was something never seen, not only in Perth but also to a certain extent the NSL.

20,000 tickets were snapped up in record time and on a fine autumn night the Glory managed to win a classic contest with a late header from Bobby Despotovski.

The Glory had trailed 1-0 but managed to claw back to win 2-1 and set the scene for a showdown with Marconi. 8,000 seats were added but once again were snapped up quickly.

In a game that didn't have the same excitement as the first, Glory went through 1-0 thanks to an own goal.

Glory's run was ended when they lost 2-1 to Sydney United. A controversial sending off of Tony Franken, off-field trouble and the fact that no stretcher was even on the grounds to carry injured defender Craig Deans off made for a gloomy day for the Glory.

Sydney United was clearly the better side, after all they were minor premiers, but as Bernd Stange (by now a cult figure with the Perth media) said in the press conference "We lost the game but won many hearts".

Glory achieved their goal of finishing in the finals and now the bar of expectation has risen once more for 1999/2000.

CHANGE IN PERSONNEL

No less than nine players have left (many of them defenders). Foundation player Paul Strudwick has retired, Vasko Tripceski and Tony Carbone were let go mainly for fitness reasons, while Gavin Wilkinson moved back to New Zealand and fellow Kiwi Danny Hay left for Leeds United.

Micheal Garcia and Gianfranco Circati went to Europe and both Craig Deans and John Markovski headed to Carlton.

Deans being let go still doesn't sit well with Glory fans.

In has come brilliant attacking midfielder Kasey Wehrman from Brisbane, Canberra Olyroo Peter

Buljan, Adelaide Sharks defender Hamilton Thorp, Brazilian defensive midfielder/sweeper Edgar Junior, defender Dion Valle and exciting AIS player Ivan Ergic.

KEY PLAYERS

Kasey Wehrman may be one the players to make the Glory go one or two steps better this season, courtesy of his robust attacking style.

Ones to perhaps benefit from Wehrman's presence will be Alistair Edwards, who will have to lead with Bobby Despotovski up front, plus Edgar Junior and Gareth Naven who will have to succeed in holding up the midfield, a soft spot with the Glory last season.

Miller and Trajkovski must be in control on the wings to provide service to the forwards. Buljabasic's return will be watched closely.

Glory missed his stability last season.

YOUNG PLAYERS TO WATCH

Ivan Ergic is a player that is set for big things. The stand out player in the practice matches he is strong and isn't afraid to run at defences. Peter Buljan isn't in the Olyroos side for nothing and will also be one to watch up front possibly earning a regular starting place.

KEY TO SUCCESS

Perhaps the key to success this season will once again be their support and professionalism.

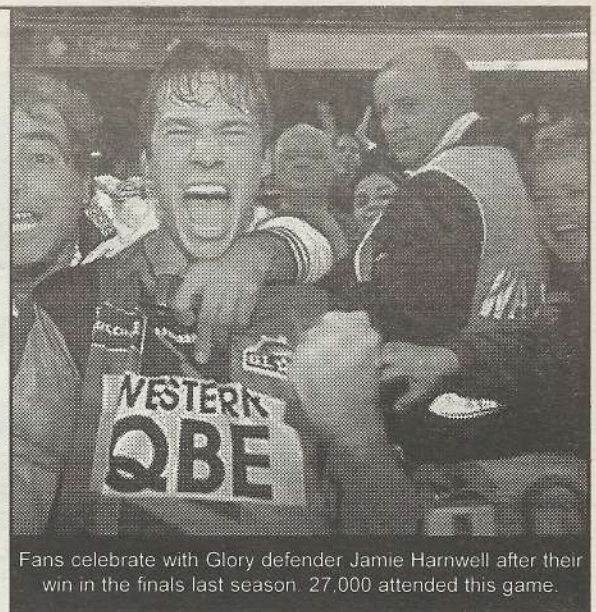
Most players that join the club are surprised by how much the

club is set up like a European club. A plus for young players like Wehrman and Buljan.

The one thing to make the Glory even more successful this season is consistency - something that disappeared midway through the season.



Heart and Soul: Glory's midfield general Gareth Naven.



Fans celebrate with Glory defender Jamie Harnwell after their win in the finals last season. 27,000 attended this game.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

No financial qualms when it comes to the Glory. The club is privately co-owned and whilst the club is in no financial dire straights, like some NSL clubs, it does not make a huge profit either with much of the profit is pumped back into the team.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Perth Glory's marketing strategy is simply aimed at families, trying to break the stereotype that sometimes dogs the sport in this country.

It has worked from day one and has now been passed on to other clubs. The day out at the soccer is promoted as a family day for everyone to go and see and that's exactly what it is.

It is a raging success and the support of the side shows the proof.

FORECAST

Topping last season is going to be hard for the Glory. They have lost many players including four defenders. That has always been the problem for the side, its defence.

Glory will need to make sure they do not get too complacent against lower sides like many times last season.

Buljabasic's return will be welcomed but will he be the same player? More signing will occur during the season and another strong season is tipped, especially with Bernd Stange in control.

TOP SIX TIPS: South Melbourne, Perth Glory, Carlton SC, Marconi Fairfield, UTS Olympic, Parramatta Power

ending one game short of the finals, Marocchi and his team failed to perform to high expectations set from a suprisingly successful debut season.

Out went Marocchi and in came former East German national coach Bernd Stange and his assistant Mitch D'Avray.

NSL big names were brought in to beef up an already strong squad. NSL journeyman John Markovski, two-time NSL Champion Con Boutsianis, Olyroos keeper Danny Milosevic and Socceroo wing back Rob Trajkovski were the biggest.

The Glory's unbeaten nine-match run came to an end away to Newcastle, yet the writing had been on the wall for some time.

A major blow was the broken leg suffered by sweeper Vinko Buljabasic, unsettling the defence and making the Glory's task of making the finals just a little harder.

Scott Miller, Rob Trajkovski and John Markovski had excellent starts to the season. Miller and Trajkovski dominating their respective wings, Markovski scoring seven goals in the first nine games.

The loss of Buljabasic and the sidelining of Trajkovski and Markovski paved the way for a massive form slump. After amassing 22 points out of a possible 27 the Glory only managed to scrape together five points from a possible 24 to have them languishing in the bottom half of the six.

The recruitment of Alistair Edwards and Gianfranco Circati got the Glory back on track. Edwards taking up where

FIXTURES 99/2000 *Subject to change

2-Oct-99	Gippsland Falcons
Mobil Park	
10-Oct-99	Marconi Stallions
Perth Oval	
17-Oct-99	Melbourne Knights
Knight's Park	
24-Oct-99	Adelaide Force
Perth Oval	
29-Oct-99	Canberra Cosmos
Bruce Stadium	
7-Nov-99	Brisbane Strikers
Perth Oval	
12-Nov-99	Parramatta Power
Parramatta Stadium	
28-Nov-99	Carlton
Perth Oval	
5-Dec-99	Sydney United
Edensor Park	
12-Dec-99	South Melbourne
Perth Oval	
17-Dec-99	Newcastle Breakers
Breakers Stadium	
26-Dec-99	Adelaide Sharks
Perth Oval	
2-Jan-00	Sydney Olympic
Belmore Oval	
9-Jan-00	Gippsland Falcons
Perth Oval	
14-Jan-00	Northern Spirit
North Sydney Oval	
21-Jan-00	Auckland Kings

North Harbour Stadium	
26-Jan-00	Auckland Kings
Perth Oval	
30-Jan-00	Wollongong Wolves
Perth Oval	
6-Feb-00	Marconi Stallions
Marconi Stadium	
13-Feb-00	Melbourne Knights
Perth Oval	
18-Feb-00	Adelaide Force
Hindmarsh Stadium	
27-Feb-00	Canberra Cosmos
Perth Oval	
4-Mar-00	Brisbane Strikers
Suncorp Stadium	
12-Mar-00	Parramatta Power
Perth Oval	
24-Mar-00	Carlton
Olympic Park	
2-Apr-00	Sydney United
Perth Oval	
9-Apr-00	South Melbourne
Bob Jane Stadium	
16-Apr-00	Newcastle Breakers
Perth Oval	
21-Apr-00	Adelaide Sharks
Hindmarsh Stadium	
30-Apr-00	Sydney Olympic
Perth Oval	
7-May-00	Wollongong Wolves
Brandon Park	
14-May-00	Northern Spirit
Perth Oval	

CARLTON

SEASON PREVIEW

By Greg Blake

OVERALL ASSESMENT.

With new owners, new home ground, new major sponsorship, new coach and a largely revamped playing roster Carlton will roll off the showroom floor with high hopes for this the club's third NSL season.

Internal expectations are high, but justifiably so and expect the Blues to re-

A more consistent Alex Moreira would also help; the Brazilian having scored nine of his last season's 12 goals in just four games, although the pressure will be off him to some degree with the re-addition of flamboyant gunslinger John Markovski, import Mike Conroy and 'Bush Bullet' Archie Thomson (pictured right).

A healthy Mark Atkinson will help as well. Carlton's got some quality players

If my mail is correct the Blues will be sitting quite nicely financially with both high-profile major and peripheral sponsorships in place.

Despite playing to some less than satisfactory crowds it must be remembered that box office success will not make or break any club these days.

Having said that Carlton, using ground co-tenant Melbourne Storm's example, has freed up some more of its still limited resources to fund a concerted local radio and print advertising campaign.

Also inspired by the hugely successful ARL club Storm, watch for Carlton's efforts in putting together some whiz-bang game-day entertainment.

I hope the Friday night experiment means people will be there to watch.



Archie Thomson: Carlton's 'Bush Bullet'

Craig Deans, David Terminello, Packer, Markovski and the well-documented 'Brit Pack'.

PERFORMANCE FORECAST.

If they get some momentum up early Carlton can and probably will finish top three of four, although the unknown factor is whether new boss Stuart Munro can fund and establish his best team and some rhythm early enough.

At worst the Blues should still coast into the play-offs. In what is seen as the largely experimental club's make-or break season anything less would be a disaster.

THE CARLTON SQUAD

Dean Anastasiadis, Con Anthopoulos, Simon Colosimo, Sean Douglas, Andrew Marth, Mark Atkinson, Alex Moreira, Lubo Lapsansky, Archie Thompson, Joe Tricarico, Steve Martin, Craig Deans, David Terminello, Dave McPherson, John Markovski, Mike Conroy, Andy Packer, Colin Azzopardi, Stuart Slater, Angelo Moutsopoulos, Serdar Pir, David Della Rocca, David Grbac, Adrian Cagalj, Ace Stojovski, Tony Ouliaris, Steve Tilovski.



Dave McPherson: Carlton's big signing.



Defender Craig Deans

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Confidence. Last season Carlton had a good squad and good coach but a whirlwind start to the campaign was blown to bits by a couple of murderous mid-year losses, key injuries and the general air of uncertainty about the place.

This year the Blues have a better squad and a good coach. Plenty of depth and the chance for a fresh start under new management are important factors as the club strives for success. No excuses this time. Although I suspect they won't need any.

SUMMARY OF PLAYING ROSTER.

Some feverish recruiting has left Carlton with an embarrassment of riches. A couple of significant losses in Marcus Stergiopoulos and Marco Bresciano, while David Cervinski's move to Wollongong will more than adequately be covered by McPherson.

The club boasts ten other new signings, all of whom are a chance to play starting roles sooner or later. They include

enter the play-off picture in 1999/2000. In stark contrast to the stench of death which accompanied the crash-and-burn end to last season there is a palpable air of confidence about the place once again.

Carlton's 'Brit Pack' of Dave McPherson, Stewart Slater and Mike

coming into the season, many of whom deserve the key player tag.

YOUNG PLAYERS TO WATCH.

Carlton boasts one of the potentially richest feeder networks in the competition and doubtless the Blues will come up with

This year the Blues have a better squad and a good coach. Plenty of depth and the chance for a fresh start under new management are important factors as the club strives for success. No excuses this time. Although I suspect they won't need any.

Greg Blake

Conroy have impressed in the pre-season and the club is hoping to cash in on their profile by filling some huge gaps on the terraces at expansive Olympic Park.

KEY PLAYERS.

Giant former Scottish International McPherson has taken on deity-like proportions at Carlton already. Even senior players say he has set a shining example and the club is thrilled that the big guy is prepared to take Carlton's sales pitch to the streets at every opportunity.

Of course, the key now is whether McPherson can actually help shore up the league's most pathetic defence over the second half of last season (conceded 36 goals in 16 games @ 2.25 per game).

a smoky or two again this season.

But the mail is that 18-year-old Brisbane discard Andy Packer is training the house down and late-season debutant Steve Martin is an eye-catcher in the making.

Carlton debuted seven players aged 21 and under last season and expect at least one or two to make a transitional step up this year.

FINANCIAL SITUATION AND MARKETING

Carlton was expected to make an official announcement today (Tuesday) of a new major sponsorship from American Express, in a deal which I believe will run over six years.

FIXTURES 99/2000

*Subject to change

1-Oct-99 Auckland Kings
North Harbour Stadium
8-Oct-99 Gippsland Falcons
Olympic Park
17-Oct-99 Marconi Stallions
Marconi Stadium
22-Oct-99 Melbourne Knights
Olympic Park
29-Oct-99 Adelaide Force
Hindmarsh Stadium
5-Nov-99 Canberra Cosmos
Olympic Park
13-Nov-99 Brisbane Strikers
Suncorp Stadium
19-Nov-99 Parramatta Power
Olympic Park
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7-May-00 Sydney Olympic
Belmore Oval
12-May-00 Woll. Wolves
Olympic Park

CANBERRA COSMOS

SEASON PREVIEW

By Dylan Durie

LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE:

While little positive can be said about the Cosmos' performance on the whole last season, heart can be taken from the significant turnaround under new coach Tom Sermanni.

The Cosmos failed to take a single point from their first 12 games but won four and drew three after the appointment

Robbie Hooker (Marconi)

Sermanni is also hoping to secure the signatures of veteran Scottish defenders David Winnie and Brian Hamilton before the third week of the season.

Out: Lindsay Wilson (Olympic)
Peter Buljan (Perth)
Doug Marcina (Gippsland)
Anthony Magnacca (S. Melb)

an important part of Sermanni's plans this year.

De Jesus was signed as soon as Sermanni began as coach and didn't let his new club down, showing great skill on the ball and poise in front of goal.

The small but powerful striker will hope to make a wider reputation for himself in the NSL this season.

KEY TO SUCCESS

Without any super-stars in their ranks, the Cosmos' key to moving up the table this year will be how well the squad gels and plays as a team. Sermanni has assembled a group of hard working players that will play with pride and team spirit to overcome more fancied opponents.

The Cosmos will anchor their season on a strong home record that will depend to some extent on how strongly the notoriously fickle Canberra public gets behind the team.

MARKETING

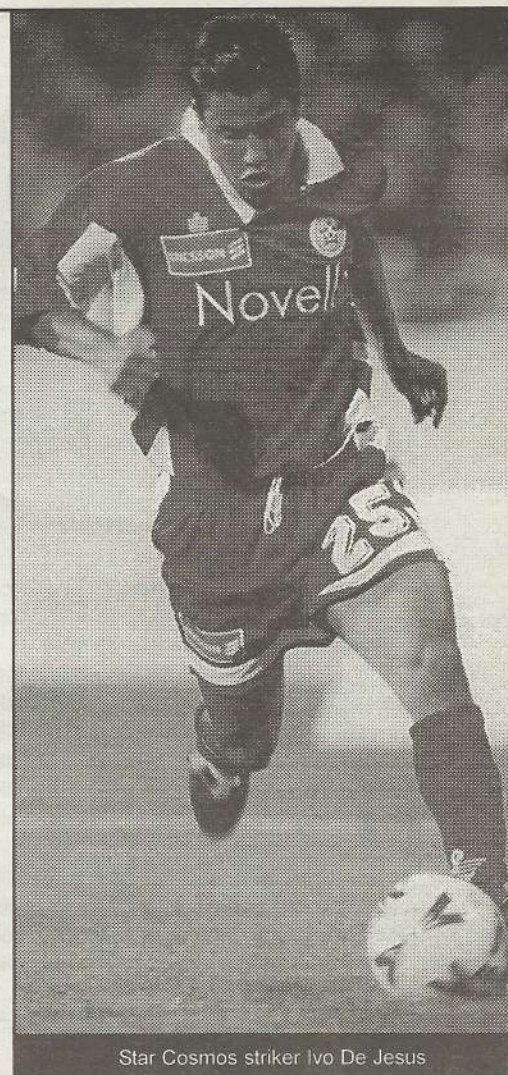
Four of the first team squad have taken over the coordinatig of the promotions/marketing. New major sponsors this year will help to boost the profile of the club in the Canberra region.

The Cosmos have switched all their home games this season to Friday nights from Mondays, and have targeted the 16,000 local players in an effort to at least double last year's average crowd of 2,200.

PERFORMANCE FORECAST

The Cosmos will be desperate to rid themselves of the wooden spoon this season and look capable of doing so. The team is strong enough to fight its way into the top half of the table and will aim to battle for a spot in the top six.

Crucial to their chances will be how the Cosmos start the season. A strong early showing will attract crowds to Bruce Stadium and give the team confidence to



Star Cosmos striker Ivo De Jesus

take on the best the NSL has to offer.

TOP SIX PREDICTION

Perth Glory
Northern Spirit
South Melbourne
Parramatta Power
Adelaide Force
Sydney Olympic



CANBERRA COSMOS
1999-2000 SQUAD

3 TOPLICA POPOVICH (ABOVE)
DEFENDER
4 DANIEL BURT
DEFENDER
5 NICHOLAS PURDUE
DEFENDER
6 JASON POLAK
MIDFIELD
8 DANIEL WATKINS
FORWARD
9 ALEX CASTRO
MIDFIELD
10 MICHAEL MUSITANO

FORWARD
11 DAVID ARRANZ
MIDFIELD
14 HARRY JAMES
MID/FORWARD
15 GLEN KOLPAK
FORWARD
16 ILIJA PRENZOSKI
MIDFIELD
18 NIKOLA MRDJA
MIDFIELD
19 GEOFF HOWARTH
FORWARD
20 GRANT BARLOW
GOALKEEPER
21 SCOTT CONLON
MIDFIELD
22 ELLIOT ZWANGOBANI
DEFENDER
25 IVO DE JESUS
FORWARD
26 GABRIEL GONZALEZ
MIDFIELD
30 ANGELO KONSTANTINOU
GOALKEEPER

of Sermanni for the last 16 matches.

Norman Kelly Lindfield (N.Ire)
Leo Langone (Brisbane)
Amarildo Miglietti (Portugal)
Dale Wingell Perth (State League)
Ivan Zelic (Adelaide Force)
P.J. Roberts (England trialling)

The Cosmos is still waiting on the decisions of Gordon Hunter, who has returned to Scotland for personal reasons, and goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic as to whether or not they will re-sign.

KEY PLAYERS

The Cosmos will rely on new signings Jason Polak and Robbie Hooker to prevent the loose defending that so often plagued the team last year, both of whom have significant NSL experience.

Scoring was also a problem last season and the departure of top marksman Peter Buljan is a blow.

Sermanni will be hoping that Ivo De Jesus can continue his form from last season and gain improved support from the new signings.

YOUNG PLAYER TO WATCH

22-year-old striker Ivo De Jesus played a starring role in the Cosmos' end of season fight back last term and will be

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

In: Jason Polak (S. Melb)
Danny Watkins (N. Spirit)
Alex Castro (Adel Sharks)
Glen Kolpak (Brisbane)



Michael Musitano, the Cosmos forward.

The Cosmos also started to forge an impressive home record, with three wins and a draw in their last six matches at Bruce Stadium.

FIXTURES 99/2000

*Subject to change

1-Oct-99 Adelaide Force
Bruce Stadium
15-Oct-99 Brisbane Strikers
Bruce Stadium
22-Oct-99 Parramatta Power
Parramatta Stadium
29-Oct-99 Perth Glory
Bruce Stadium
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Olympic Park
12-Nov-99 Sydney United
Bruce Stadium
21-Nov-99 South Melbourne
Bob Jane Stadium
26-Nov-99 New. Breakers
Bruce Stadium
3-Dec-99 Adelaide Sharks
Hindmarsh Stadium
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Bruce Stadium
19-Dec-99 Woll. Wolves
Brandon Park
26-Dec-99 Northern Spirit
Bruce Stadium
2-Jan-00 Auckland Kings
North Harbour Stadium
7-Jan-00 Adelaide Force
Hindmarsh Stadium
16-Jan-00 Marconi Stallions
Marconi Stadium
23-Jan-00 Melb. Knights
Knights Park

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Bruce Stadium
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Bruce Stadium
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North Sydney Oval
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Bruce Stadium
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Mobil Park
12-May-00 Marconi Stallions
Bruce Stadium

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

SEASON PREVIEW

By Greg Blake

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The seemingly rapid decline of the Melbourne Knights has been predictable but none-the-less sad for those of us who so admired the once near invincible back-

The Knights Squad:

Joe Didulica, Mark Silic, Murtala Abbas, Dragi Nastevski, Ivan Jolic, Ante Kovacevic, Paul Urlovic, John Didulica, Mijo Trupkovic, Damon Collina, Ivan Kelic, Joey Rajher, Paul Magdic, Ransford Banini, Alex Kiratzoglou, Frank Bazzano, Martin John, Zjelko Susa, Jason Vukadin, Michael Reda, Lance Plunkett.

to-back championship teams of the mid-1990s.

Predictable in as much as the quick-fix financial gains to be had by selling off the array of truly super players to have passed through Knights Stadium, an administration seemingly hell-bent on maintaining an obsolete status quo and the trademark revolving door for coaches all at least in part combined to ensure the club would sooner or later stumble into mediocrity.

Inevitably few at the club caught on that they were falling by wayside on and

off the paddock and instead insisted on blaming the governing body, accusing the powers that be of earmarking the club for destruction rather than addressing the real problems the Knights now face.

Sad in that so many enviable achievements - five grand finals and two championships in six years from 1991 to 1996 - would be, in anyone's terms, a desirable platform from which to launch the club towards and into the new millennium.

Hopefully the malaise has been at least in part arrested by a new administration which, according to insiders, is at least prepared to try and drag the club out of the mire, that's if it is not too late.

This is a pivotal year for the Melbourne Knights.

KEY PLAYERS

Fortunately the club (at time of writing) has retained classy young 'keeper Joe Didulica, one of just seven players on the pre-season club roster with 50 or more NSL games to his name.

Ante Kovacevic, veteran goal-scorer Ivan Kelic, returning Mark Silic and Micahel Reda are the only Knights players with 100 games or more, thus the Knights go into the campaign with probably the least experienced squad going around.

The bulk of the responsibility of pulling this team together will fall on that quintet, along with the likes of Dragi Nastevski, Joey Rajher, Ivan Jolic and Alex Kiratzoglou.

The Knights debuted eleven players last season and fans can expect more of the same for this season.

YOUNG PLAYERS TO WATCH

The Knights have had a happy knack of unearthing some of this country's best young talents over the past decade.

The club has launched then unknowns like Mark Viduka, Tom Pondeljak, Zjelko Susa, Joe Simunic, Frank Juric and Steve Horvat - to name merely a few - onto the scene.

Last season the gun kid was Jason Vukadin and if the Knights dwindling band of fans can rely on one thing it is that (fingers crossed) the club can produce one or two recruits from out of the magic hat.

FINANCIAL SITUATION AND MARKETING

The jury is out here, with the Knights only apparently preparing themselves to play catch up with the rest of the league under the club's new regime.

The intent is there, the Knights having lured former South Melbourne marketing guru



Outstanding young keeper Martin John.

Barry Horsfall back to Melbourne to take charge.

Horsfall readily admits that the Knights job is the most challenging he has undertaken but he also believes the club has accepted that a near 100 per cent change in attitude is required by the club if its is to remain healthy and viable in the NSL. "I wouldn't be here if the club didn't accept that," he says.

The Knights are embarking on a three to five year marketing plan that has already netted the club its first major sponsor for three seasons, with Skyair signing on for 12 months.

But if Biskic can keep the bulk of his roster fit and get the absolute optimum from just about every player week-in-week-out he stands a chance of a bearable mid-table finish.

Greg Blake

and more likely when, the team is struggling.

Given the cattle at his disposal it is almost certain that the team will struggle at various times during the season.

But if Biskic can keep the bulk of his roster fit and get the absolute optimum from just about every player week-in-week-out he stands a chance of a bearable mid-table finish.

SUMMARY OF PLAYING ROSTER

Many of the players released or transferred were already lost to the club well before the end of the 1998-9 campaign - Harry Karl, Zoran Markovski and Co. - but Ante Deak's season-eve move to Sydney United is a cruel blow to the Knights.

Tommy Pondeljak had a poor season last summer but the former crowd favourite will also be missed from a playing roster as light on in experience as any in the clubs' NSL history.

PERFORMANCE FORECAST

Anything outside bottom four should be considered a success for the Knights in what is yet another 'rebuilding season'.

Anything approaching even peripheral top six should be considered a minor miracle and Biskic would deserve a knighthood, literally.

KEY TO SUCCESS

The coaching abilities of club legend and Knights' NSL games record holder Josip Biskic is the key to the progress of the Knights for the upcoming season.

For starters, let's hope that the former grand final skipper isn't crucified if,

FIXTURES

*subject to change

3-Oct-99 Brisbane Strikers
Knights Park
10-Oct-99 Parramatta Power
Parramatta Stadium
17-Oct-99 Perth Glory
Knights Park
22-Oct-99 Carlton
Olympic Park
31-Oct-99 Sydney United
Knights Park
7-Nov-99 South Melbourne
Bob Jane Stadium
14-Nov-99 New. Breakers
Knights Park
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Knights Park
22-Apr-00 Gippsland Falcons
Mobil Park
30-Apr-00 Marconi Stallions
Knights Park
12-May-00 Adelaide Force



Former Knights legend Mark Viduka.



MARCONI STALLIONS SQUAD 99/2000
 Mark Babic
 Francis Awaritefe
 Dominic Longo
 Buddy Farah
 Mike Smith
 Zeljko Babic
 Danny Invincible

Darren McDonald
 Pierluigi Di Gia'
 Vlado Zoric
 Brett Hughes
 David Aceski
 Brad Maloney
 Paulo Marchesini
 Christian Care
 Pan-Keun Kim
 Harry Karl
 Brendan Renaud
 Chad Gibson
 Kris Trajanovski
 Michael Turnbull



By John Vrtaric

In a season which was almost a disaster, last year Marconi salvaged some pride with a late surging run that saw them end up in fourth spot and, eventually, knocked out in the minor semi-final by Perth.

The arrival of Frank Farina as coach of Marconi at the beginning of the season was seen as the return of the prodigal son. Having played his best football in Australia in a Marconi jersey Farina left these shores to pursue what turned out to be a highly successful overseas career.

With a championship belt in his first year as coach of Brisbane, Farina was expected to lead the Marconi glamour team to the championship they had not won since the '92-'93 season.

All started off well in the early part of the season but then in the middle, the team from Fairfield hit a trough when they couldn't seem to win a game, no matter how hard they tried. With about six weeks of the season to go they were well out of contention and most people wrote them

Sydney.

Their march ended at the next hurdle when Perth Glory beat them by the odd goal but the season turned out to be moderately successful given it came so close to being a complete disaster.

But for a club used to the success that Marconi has enjoyed only the championship can be considered a success.

Nevertheless, there were pluses from the season with the major one being the beginning of the arch rivalry with their northern cousins, Northern Spirit. A large last round crowd is a forerunner, hopefully, of things to come in this campaign.

The success of Spirit in attracting large crowds to each of their home games was one of the catalysts for Marconi to re-think their goals for the current season and with Spirit's success in mind, Marconi is attempting to mimic that success with a new marketing strategy.

GAINS AND LOSSES

The biggest gains and losses involve the coaching position - a well documented change of coaches with Farina moving to the national team coaching slot and the sartorial splendour of Eddie Krncevic replacing him. Two coaches with similar records as players and coaches - Marconi is fortunate to replace the departing Farina with a coach of the pedigree of Krncevic.

Krncevic has inherited an experienced squad with very little change to that of last year. His major losses are goalkeeper Ante Covic who has moved overseas to the Greek First Division and Marcus Phillips, who has transferred to Sydney Olympic.

Covic's loss may be crucial, though, as Marconi had trouble in that position when he was injured last year. The inexperience of David Aceski cost the Fairfielders a number of goals last year and they may have to revert to the experienced Brett Hughes, who is the goalkeeping coach, if Aceski does not regain the confidence.

The former AIS and Australian Youth 'keeper Michael Turnbull has signed on as cover.

The only notable gains on the playing field are the arrival of two imports who have experience in the Italian lower divisions, Paulo Marchesini and Pierluigi Di Gia', plus Harry Karl who has moved from the Victorian State League team St Albans.

Marchesini is a striker who will be vying for one spot in a very hotly contested position on the team. He is up against Francis Awaritefe, Sean Babic, Karl and Kris Trajanovski.

Di Gia', on the other hand, if he measures up, may be an ideal addition to the midfield where he may be able to add some flair to the graft and destructive talents of Darren McDonald and the goal poaching talents of captain Brad Maloney.

KEY PLAYERS

Maloney is again the key player - a more consistent midfielder that scores goals does not exist in the NSL. Second equal top goal scorer last season Maloney will need to replicate that achievement this year, although the addition of prolific goal scorer Karl may ease the pressure on him.

With a midfield lacking creativity, the arrival of Di Gia' could provide the team with the flair missing in recent years and add another dimension.

If he measures up to the standards set by previous Italian imports such as Roberto Vieri and Ermanno Pelucchi the newcomer may become a key player for

MARCONI STALLIONS

SEASON PREVIEW

the team.

YOUNG PLAYER TO WATCH

In a highly experienced team very few young players have been able to make the breakthrough into the Marconi starting line up.

With the backing of the Marconi social club the Stallions have been able to purchase ready made players and it has been a long time since Marconi produced its own stars such as Bertie Mariani and Peter Sharpe.

Danny Invincible was transferred from Brisbane last year but failed to grasp the early opportunities and remained on the outer throughout the season. Given the opportunity this year he may be able to force his way into the starting lineup.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

The backing of the social club means that Marconi has been the most financially stable club in the NSL. Money has never been a problem and the social club is going from strength to strength - this situation has provided Marconi with the funds to undertake a major marketing strategy aimed at luring the missing supporters to fill the grandstands of Marconi Stadium.

MARKETING STRATEGY

The club has hired the noted sports marketing company Stenmark Organisation to develop its marketing strategy. The first part of the 'new' Marconi is the change in logo and name - although they were unofficially Marconi Stallions in prior years - they have now officially adopted the name and changed their old logo with a stallion motif now taking pride of place.

Amongst the promotional activities being carried out by the club are billboard advertising and free ticket offers to the 37,000 juniors competing in seven junior associations.



Big Stallions defender, Socceroo Mark Babic.

Many juniors within those associations are very fortunate as both Marconi and Parramatta Power have targeted them - let's hope that they watch both teams by alternating each week.

Marconi is rumoured to be spending up to a \$1million on its marketing campaign - a well overdue attempt by Marconi to 'think big' which will, hopefully, result in the club and football becoming more popular and bigger.

PREDICTION

Krncevic has a strong squad and is expected to reach the top six, anything beyond that will probably be seen as a bonus.

With a similar team to last year it is hard to see them outdo South Melbourne or Parramatta Power unless Krncevic's coaching ability can get something extra out of the team.



Marconi Stallions midfielder Chad Gibson

off for the season (myself included).

They needed a minor miracle to force their way amongst the top six ... and a miracle they got.

Marconi went on a winning rampage and secured their spot in the elite group with a round to spare. With a win against arch-rivals Northern Spirit in the last game of the season they finished in fourth spot and met the north harbour side in a two-leg elimination final.

They again triumphed over the league's newcomers with a 2-1 victory at home after a scoreless draw at North

FIXTURES 99/2000

*subject to change

1-Oct-99	Parramatta Power
Parramatta Stadium	
10-Oct-99	Perth Glory
Perth Oval	
17-Oct-99	Carlton
Marconi Stadium	
24-Oct-99	Sydney United
Edensor Park	
31-Oct-99	South Melbourne
Marconi Stadium	
5-Nov-99	Newcastle Breakers
Breakers Stadium	
14-Nov-99	Adelaide Sharks
Marconi Stadium	
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Belmore Oval	
28-Nov-99	Wollongong Wolves
Marconi Stadium	
3-Dec-99	Northern Spirit
North Sydney Oval	
12-Dec-99	Auckland Kings
Marconi Stadium	
18-Dec-99	Gippsland Falcons
Mobil Park	
2-Jan-00	Melb Knights
Marconi Stadium	
9-Jan-00	Parramatta Power
Marconi Stadium	
16-Jan-00	Canberra Cosmos
Marconi Stadium	
22-Jan-00	Brisbane Strikers

Suncorp Stadium

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12-May-00	Canberra Cosmos
Bruce Stadium	

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

SEASON PREVIEW

By John Vrtaric

Last year Olympic's volatile history seemed to take a turn for the better at the start of last season. A group of 'white knights' took over the club after it had come close to extinction for the umpteenth time.

The five rescuers, headed by the

not losing many from last year.

The major losses are Mehmed Durakovic, who has returned to Melbourne for personal reasons, and Milan Blagojevic who has moved across town to Power.

Culina's major gain is the return of Zlatko Arambasic from Belgium where he was a consistent scorer for Mechelen in

ner kicks.

YOUNG PLAYER TO WATCH

Brett Emerton, though he has been around for two or three seasons is still very young, will need to find a rejuvenation of his form to bring back his reputation.

The left foot of Nick Carle revealed some talent last season and this could be his year.

His main concern, though, will be making the starting line up. With Arambasic and Cardozo in front of him for a striker's role his work rate does not suit a position in midfield.

KEY TO SUCCESS

Culina looms as the key to the success of Olympic. The young coach had great success with a young Sydney United team a few years ago but has not tasted success since then.

His ill-fated spell with Canberra and last year's mediocre performance saw him fall by the wayside when it came to discussions of Australia's national coach, whereas a few years ago he would have been one of the favourites.

His success with United came after three years of nurturing of a young team that, eventually, bore fruit. He may be able to do it with Olympic a year earlier.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Little is revealed, or known, about the current financial viability of Olympic - the owners all have great personal wealth but seem unwilling to use anymore of their own money to provide the drive for Olympic to catapult themselves into the hearts of the mainstream football supporters.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Like last season, there is very little emanating from the Olympic camp to suggest that this season will be different to past years.

There is nothing to suggest that they are tapping the shoulders of the vast num-

ber of kids within their junior association boundaries, and nothing to say that there will be a big marketing push to entice the mainstream football lover.

They are hoping for bigger crowds this year but seem to be doing just that ... hoping!

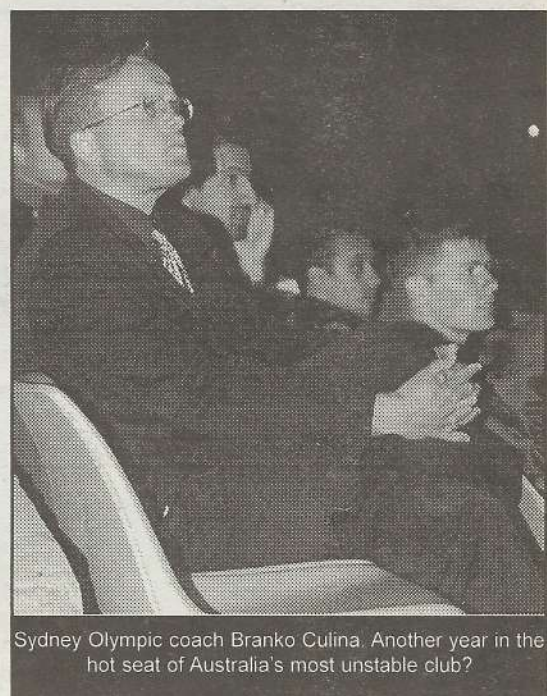
They are, though, planning a promotion for the first game of the season. Under the heading of Festival 99 the entertainment will include cabaret dancers, singers and a hovercraft display!

Outsourced to a private promotions company the limited advertising budget allows for promotion on radio and newspapers ... Greek radio and Greek newspapers!

PREDICTION

In what may turn out to be competition split into two groups Olympic should finish in the top half but probably will emulate their performance of last season when they just missed out on the top six.

A top six position is a realistic goal but, at this stage, they seem to be the weakest of the top eight teams.



Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina. Another year in the hot seat of Australia's most unstable club?

OLYMPIC SQUAD FOR 99/200

- 1 JIM KOURTIS
- 2 SCOTT THOMAS
- 3 CHRIS ZORICICH
- 4 PETER TSEKENIS (RIGHT)
- 5 SCOTT BAILLIE
- 6 ANTE JURIC
- 7 ZLATKO ARAMBASIC
- 8 MARCUS PHILLIPS
- 9 PABLO CARDOZO
- 10 BRETT EMERTON
- 11 CHRIS KALANTZIS
- 14 GABRIEL MENDEZ
- 15 LINDSAY WILSON
- 16 ADRIAN CERVINSKI
- 17 PAUL KOHLER
- 18 JOHN KYRIAZOPOULOS
- 19 NICK CARLE
- 20 GEORGE BOUHOUTSOS



Sydney Olympic perennial, Peter Tsekensis.

very successful Greek-Australian businessman Nick Politis, won control of the club over a rival bid from another millionaire, the extravagant Rene Rivkin.

The bidding was protracted and emotional, befitting the nature of Olympic supporters, with the final outcome probably swayed by the fact that the 'five white knights' were all of Greek ancestry.

At one time it seemed certain that Rivkin was to be given the nod by the club members but emotion won out at the end of the day and Politis' group took the reins in the end.

With the growing debt paid off by the new owners Olympic was able to start the season in a confident mood.

Frank Arok was brought in as Technical Director, Johnny Warren was to provide the his own expertise, Branko Culina arrived as head coach and the owners were to inject the money.

A new dawn was promised, Olympic was finally to achieve the potential that we all knew was there, all it needed was the finance and administrative expertise to put it all together.

Alas, another false promise, off the field, in particular, and on the field. On the field Olympic was in the hunt for a top six spot right to the last game but was pipped for sixth spot by Adelaide City.

Off the field a major disappointment - we expected a marketing drive to entice the huge number of potential fans in the southern suburbs of Sydney.

To a neutral observer there was no difference to the bygone years - a giant still waiting to be awoken.

GAINS AND LOSSES

With the launch of Parramatta Power and the rebirth of Marconi hogging all the headlines, Olympic's off season activity has been somewhat quiet. Culina has brought in a number of new players whilst

the second division.

The other major gains have strengthened both the defence and the midfield - Young Soccerroo Lindsay Wilson and New Zealand international Chris Zoricich have added considerable depth to the defence.

Spirit's Gabriel Mendez and Marconi's Marcus Phillips will add skill and work rate to the midfield.

KEY PLAYERS

The burgeoning talents of Brett Emerton did not rise to fore last season and Culina expects that the young Olyroo skipper is set for a big year. Possibly troubled by the constant positional switches at both club and representative level, Emerton seemed almost disinterested last year.

The re-emergence of the quality evident in Emerton's performances in the previous season will see him as the key to the success of Olympic.

The agreement between his various coaches that he should settle into one position this year, wide on the right, will see him torment opposition defences when at his best this season.

The return of Arambasic and his partnership with last year's top goal scorer Pablo Cardozo provides Olympic with a potential lethal goal seeking combination.

With Emerton providing opportunities from the midfield the two strikers are in for busy time this season.

They need to put away those chances if Olympic is to succeed.

Olympic's weak spot is the defence - the central defenders are on the short side, and vulnerable in the air, while goalkeeper Jim Kourtis does not provide much back up with his lack of safety when it comes to crosses or cor-

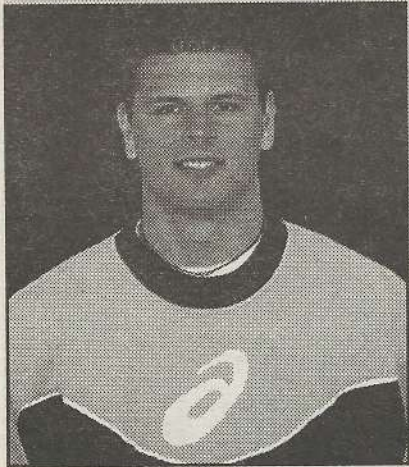
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*Subject to change

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Edensor Park	
23-Jan-00	South Melbourne

Bob Jane Stadium

26-Jan-00	South Melbourne
Belmore Oval	
28-Jan-00	Carlton
Olympic Park	
6-Feb-00	Adelaide Sharks
Belmore Oval	
20-Feb-00	Wollongong Wolves
Brandon Park	
27-Feb-00	Northern Spirit
Belmore Oval	
3-Mar-00	Auckland Kings
North Harbour Stadium	
12-Mar-00	Gippsland Falcons
Belmore Oval	
19-Mar-00	Marconi Stallions
Marconi Stadium	
26-Mar-00	Melbourne Knights
Belmore Oval	
31-Mar-00	Adelaide Force
Hindmarsh Stadium	
9-Apr-00	Canberra Cosmos
Belmore Oval	
15-Apr-00	Brisbane Strikers
Suncorp Stadium	
23-Apr-00	Parramatta Power
Belmore Oval	
30-Apr-00	Perth Glory
Perth Oval	
7-May-00	Carlton
Belmore Oval	
14-May-00	Sydney United
Belmore Oval	



Mile and Tony

TAKE OUT THE SENSITIVE NEW AGE SURVEY!



ON THE EVE OF THE NSL I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE THE SOFT SIDE OF OUR STAR PLAYERS. THAT'S WHY THIS WEEK WE HAVE THE OFFICIAL CLEO STYLE INSIDE SOCCER SENSITIVE NEW AGE NSL SURVEY. IT IS DESIGNED TO SEE WHAT OUR STARS KNOW ABOUT THINGS US GIRLS KNOW ALL ABOUT. AND AS YOU WILL SEE, SOME OF THE ANSWERS ARE PRETTY INTERESTING. AND IF YOU ARE AN NSL PLAYER READING THIS TRY IT YOURSELF. I SHOULD ALSO THANK MY THREE STAR PLAYERS FOR BEING GOOD SPORTS AND DOING THE SURVEY: SYDNEY UNITED'S TOM PONDELJAK, NORTHERN SPIRIT'S TONY PERINICH AND PARAMATTA POWER'S MILE STERJOVSKI. SO WHO GOT THE MOST CORRECT ANSWERS? WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO WON, BUT IF YOU MUST KNOW, MILE STERJOVSKI AND TONY PERINICH TIED FOR FIRST PLACE. THE MAIN THING IS WE HAD FUN ON THE EVE OF THE SERIOUS STUFF OF WINNING LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS ...

By Melissa Muscat

1: A-line, straight and wraparound are all types of what?

Mile: bras
Tom: no idea, underwear?
Tony: headbands

2: What is a twin-set?
Mile: (thinks) two slippers
Tom: pyjamas
Tony: Cup and saucers

3: Where would you find an en-suite?
Mile: Bedroom
Tom: Bedroom
Tony: Bedroom

4: What is tulle?

Mile: Perfume
Tom: No idea (laughs). A hair tie
Tony: Flowers!

5: Cherubs are better known as what?
Mile: It would help if I knew what they are! PJs?
Tom: No idea. Pants?
Tony: Pass

6: What is a French Roll?
Mile: Bread roll French style
Tom: Hairstyle
Tony: Something for your hair

7: Which TV soapie has the character Amanda Woodward, Peter Burns and Kyle McBride?
Mile: Melrose
Tom: Melrose
Tony: Melrose

8: If a girl was getting foils, what would she be having done?
Mile: Hair colour
Tom: Streaks
Tony: Hair

9: What is a latte?
Mile: Coffee
Tom: Some sort of coffee
Tony: Coffee

10: Bendon, Berlei and Schiaparelli all make what?
Mile: Handbags
Tom: Handbags
Tony: Are they the Three Musketeers? Handbags.

11: On a lady's wedding day, it is traditional she has four things. What are they?

Mile: Husband, dress, ring, church
Tom: Dress, bouquet, garter, husband
Tony: Something blue, used, borrowed, old and new

12: Complete this slogan ... Maybe she's born with it, Maybe it's ...
Mile: Natural
Tom: Natural
Tony: Natural

13: What would a girl use an exfoliator for?
Mile: straighten her hair
Tom: clean pores on her face
Tony: take off mascara

14: What are espadrilles?

Mile: Tablets
Tom: I don't have a clue
Tony: Flowers

15: Which product has 2000 calories?
Mile: Face cream
Tom: Donuts
Tony: Lipstick

16: What are pedal pushers
Mile: Pants below the knees
Tom: short pants
Tony: Shoes

17: Where are stilettos worn?
Mile: Wherever you want - on your feet
Tom: On your feet
Tony: Feet

18: What is electrolysis?
Mile: A way of removing hair
Tom: No idea (says word several times)
Tony: Food? Salad?

19: If a girl was to buy poison, what exactly would she be buying?
Mile: Perfume
Tom: Perfume
Tony: Perfume

20: Who or what was David Beckham and Victoria Adams child named after?
Mile: After the King
Tom: I don't know his name
Tony: After the place Brooklyn

21: Which popular novel dealing with communication and relationships now has a board game named after it?
Mile: Men are from Mars
Tom: Scrabble
Tony: Men are from Mars

THE SCORES

MILE STERJOVSKI
9 OUT OF 21

TONY PERINICH
9 OUT OF 21

TOM PONDELJAK
8 OUT OF 21

ANSWERS:

1: SKIRTS
2: TOP AND MATCHING CARDY
3: BEDROOM/HOTEL ROOM
4: LACE
5: ANGELS
6: HAIRSTYLE
7: MELROSE
8: HAIR COLOUR
9: COFFEE
10: LADIES UNDERWEAR
11: SOMETHING OLD SOMETHING NEW SOMETHING BORROWED SOMETHING

BLUE

12: MAYBELLINE
13: DEAD SKIN REMOVAL
14: SHOES
15: MASCARA
16: PANTS
17: FEET
18: PERMANENT HAIR REMOVAL
19: PERFUME
20: BROOKLYN (NEW YORK), WHERE THE CHILD WAS CONCEIVED.
21: MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS.

BRAZILIAN JOINS THE FORCE



By Lance Librandi

Adelaide Force last week signed Brazilian import player Igor Rodrigues for an initial six match stint. Rodrigues, 20, is a member of the national under-21 squad in Brazil, and is known by the nickname Indio. The young midfielder speaks no English, but Adelaide will hope his soccer will do the talking as he adds his latin skills to the side.

Indio arrived from Sao Paulo last Monday, and will guest for the agreed period, with the possibility of extending his visit for the season thereafter by mutual agreement, as the Force has done previously with Korean import Dongi-Ki Kim.

With just under a week to go for the new season, Adelaide is also negotiating with Sydney United for disgruntled forward Nathan Day. Day has been training with the Force already, and they hope to have his clearance by their first round match against Canberra this Friday night.



Force coach Zoran has signed an exciting Brazilian on loan.

THREE WINNERS OF SERGIO MELTA AWARD IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA!

By Margaret Bowden and Donald Campbell

They were all there; politicians, the powerbrokers of the SA Soccer Federation, media, Premier and State League club administrators, the referees, new National Coach Frank Farina, SA Premier and State League coaches and of course the very special people of the night - the top three players from each club who had to sit through two nailbiting hours of speeches, entertainment, compere Andy Paschalides' Greek jokes and other awards before the final votes count for the Premier League Sergio Melta Medal.

The first award of the night went to Craig Zetter, named Young Referee of the Year. He will no doubt soon be whistling at NSL level.

The Referee of the Year Award was Matthew Cream, another young whistler with a bright future.

It was then time for the best looking award of the night - the SAWSA Player of the Year Award. Three players, Marie Spagnoletti (Metro Stars), Lia Matto and Kristy Moore (both Adelaide City) waited tensely for the announcement. In what proved to be an omen for the men's award, Kristy Moore and Lia Matto tied as joint winners, with Marie Spagnoletti only one point behind.

The Coach of the Year Award was also extremely close, with minor Premiers Port Lion coach Mike Barnett almost speechless when he accepted the award from his old friend Frank Farina.

Highlight of this part of the evening was the brilliantly produced video from the Cumberland United v Port Lion Top Five final - a fantastic advertisement for soccer and for Hindmarsh Stadium. Congratulations to Matt Cross and his production team for this gem.

The Lotto Golden Boot Award for the top goalscorer in the Premier League was again a shared award, with Jason Trimboli (Birkalla) and Larry Piscioneri (Campbelltown) each scoring 14 goals.

By the final round of vote counting for the player of the year, five players had a chance to take out the most coveted award in SA soccer. Favourite Les

Matiscsak (Cumberland Foxes) drew level with Fontanarosa, and with the votes from only one match left to go, the result looked like a two-way tie.

Then, amazingly, Campbelltown City's Tony Scalzi who made a late run in voting in the second half of the season and needed the maximum three votes to win, polled just that.

Three winners. What a result for the last Sergio Melta Medal of this millennium.

John Fontanarosa's emotion charged speech put the polities and officials to shame - he succinctly made the point that this was the players' night and he was going to say everything he wanted to. There wasn't much left for Les Matiscsak and Tony Scalzi to add!

Other awards on the night were the Bob Telfer Medal for the State League Player of the Year, won by Rick Cerachio from Northern Demons; the Charlie Caruso Trophy for the U23 Premier League Player of the Year awarded to Josh Hilditch (Adelaide Blue Eagles).

The Len Alagich Trophy for the U23 State League Player of the Year awarded to Steve Maione (North East Metro Stars); the John Francis Trophy for the U19 Premier League Player of the Year, awarded jointly to Harry Tesntidis (Port Lion) and Tony Vello (Raiders); and the Rab Jones Trophy for the U19 State League Player of the Year, also awarded jointly to Paul Edmonson (Port Pirie City) and Johnathon Gomez (Adelaide Hills).

COAST FM
SOCCER

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88.5 FM

DON'T MISS IT!

friendlies 'round oz

Yes dear readers, it has been a long pre-season. Here are the last of our friendly match reports. Next week, it will be the real thing!

First, the Football Kingz won 3-0 in a warm-up on Saturday. And the NZ Weekly Soccer Observer notes that the chance of claiming a brand new Subaru Impreza LXi will go to one lucky season ticket-holder, says a circular that has gone to every householder in Auckland.

That is the latest marketing strategy emerging out of the Football Kingz march towards its inaugural debut against Carlton next Friday night. Back in Oz and here is what happened this last week ...

Canberra 1 (Prenzoski 85) Parramatta Power 0

A very impressive performance by Canberra to win this trial game at the AIS Athletics Field. In fact both teams played with great commitment - too much at times, with a number of players booked and the referee having to diffuse a few incidents.

Marconi 1 Wollongong 0

Steven Webb reports that a spectacular overhead goal from Sean Babic after good cross from Renaud clinched it for the Stallions. Mark Babic played well but their were chances missed by both sides. Wolves trialled New Zealander Blair Scoullar in injured Alvin Ceccoli's shirt. While fast on the ball, he looked lost for most of his first half appearance. Marconi's trialle, Fijian Junior Sauturaga, made some impressive runs down the right flank.

Glory 4 Force 1 (abandoned)

Glory were winning 4-1 when the game was called off due to freak weather conditions. Scorers were Vas Kalogeracos after one minute, Rob Trajkovski after five, Ivan Ergic and a goal that was described as 'stunning' by the Brazilian Edgar Junior. Mori got the goal for Adelaide Force

Sunshine Coast XII 0 Brisbane Strikers 3

Brisbane Strikers lined up as follows: 21-Bolton 2-Gwynne 13-McLaren 11-Davidson 5-Stefanutto 15-Ditton 12-Pillic 14-Knipe 24-Harris 9-Foster 11-Di Losa.

Apparently Di Losa looked good as did Wayne Knipe.

Syd Olympic 2 Syd Utd 1

Paul Goodwin reports that Sydney Olympic wound up their preparation for the new N.S.L. season with a well-publicised friendly against Sydney United, a game which was staged with the primary purpose of raising funds for the victims of the recent Athens earthquake.

A handy sum of over \$7,000, including \$1,000 donated by Sydney United and the match fees of the officials, was handed over to the Athens Earthquake Appeal which attracted a crowd of over a thousand to Belmore Sports Ground on a mild spring evening.

Olympic took the lead in the 42nd minute when Pablo Cardozo headed in a crisp cross from the left by Lindsay Wilson.

Cardozo added the second two minutes after the restart when United keeper John Crawley unwittingly played the ball out to the feet of a lurking Brett Emerton who was able to lay the ball on a platter for his striking team mate.

United grabbed a late consolation from a well directed free kick, curled around the wall by Tom Pondeljak, after Matthew Zec had been impeded on the edge of the area.

Olympic made all of the early running, with Gabriel Mendez and Peter Zorbas prominent on many occasions. The home side also had Chris Kalantzis at his crowd-pleasing best, with some good ball skills and nice passes, once setting up Cardozo in the fifth minute for a shot offered tamely at the keeper and then winning a free kick after tangling with Eddy Bosnar, Peter Tsekenis ultimately testing the keeper with a well struck attempt on goal.



Ilija Prenzoski scored the winner for Cosmos against Power in a midweek friendly.

A good ball from Mendez to Cardozo in the 18th minute saw the ball fed to Zorbas and the promising young midfielder dashed through the crowded defence, with a mazy run, only to scrape paint off the right post as the ball he had smashed fiercely whistled just wide.

Zlatko Arambasic toiled away up front, without reward, for his new club and should have done better in the 19th when he dived vainly in an attempt to head home a smart cross from Brett Emerton.

Greg Saric had the best opportunities for Sydney United with a drive just wide from 25 yards in the 29th and a header just wide in the 38th from a Mario Jerman cross.

Olympic midfielder Lindsay Wilson sped down the left and cut the ball back sharply from the byline in the 42nd for Cardozo to head in at the far post for the home side to take a deserved lead.

A long range effort from Tom Pondeljak, a minute later, was the last offering of the half from the Pumas.

United conceded the second goal when their defenders attempted to play the ball out from the back, bringing keeper Crawley into the action three times in quick succession.

The keeper was unable to rid himself of the ball and ultimately his attempted pass to yet another defender was snapped up just outside the area by the loitering Emerton, who needed no prompting to supply Cardozo with the scoring opportunity which he took gleefully.

Olympic had further chances to score, Arambasic again out of luck with a flying header in the 74th and substitute Adrian Cervinski also chipping a nice effort just over the bar two minutes later.

United went closest with a 63rd minute Bosnar free kick that stung the legs of defenders as it crashed into the wall and another cheeky lob from the same player which cleared the bar in the 71st.

When Matthew Zec, leading scorer in the NSW 2nd Division this winter, was impeded by Ante Juric as he found his way into the box, he earned his side a free kick which Pondeljak lined up confidently and curled nicely around the wall for the last goal of the game.

Juric, Emerton and Kalantzis played well for Olympic and the recalled George Bouhoutsos looked solid in goal, while for United 18 year old newcomer Nahuel (pronounced Noel) Arrarte looked useful and both Mario Jerman and Eddy Bosnar had strong games.

While Crawley may have been at fault for the second goal, it seems certain that he will be the number one keeper and his performance was otherwise excellent.

The club took a look at three senior keepers, Mikuletic and Greco being the other pair, and decided on the Macarthur Rams custodian.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: G. Bouhoutsos, P. Tsekenis, S. Baillie, A. Juric, L. Wilson, G. Mendez, B. Emerton (L. Miot 75), C. Kalantzis (S. Sinozic 69), P. Zorbas, Z. Arambasic, P. Cardozo (A. Cervinski 57)

SYDNEY UNITED: J. Crawley, V. Kupresak, E. Bosnar, J. Moric, G. Saric, V. Savocca, N. Arrarte, S. Bozinovski, M. Jerman (A. Deak 72), T. Pondeljak, N. Bosevski (M. Zec 72),

Referee: Gerard Parsons

SOUTH SEALS ITS DATE WITH WORLD'S GLAMOUR CLUBS

By Inside Soccer and agencies
After a slow start, when defeat was barely ten minutes away, South did what they do best and came good when it mattered, cruising through the Oceania qualifiers for the World Club Championship.

Backed by a buoyant 10,000 strong crowd, Nadi (Fiji) started the final promisingly and full of running creating a few worries in the South Melbourne defence in the opening five minutes.

South Melbourne, however, quickly gained control, opening the scoring through Steve Iosifidis in the eighth minute. The South defender, without a

less attacks, with Vaughan Coveny shooting inches wide in the 10th minute, then hitting the post in the 12th.

Four minutes later, South scored the second when a Michael Curcija cross from the left wing was neatly headed in by David Clarkson for a 2-0 half-time lead.

South continued their domination into the second half and were awarded a penalty only two minutes after the break when Coveny was fouled inside the box and Michael Curcija made no mistake from the spot kick.

Three minutes later, Coveny finally got onto the score sheet when he blasted home a Steve Panopoulos cut back to stretch the lead to 4-0 after only 50 minutes.

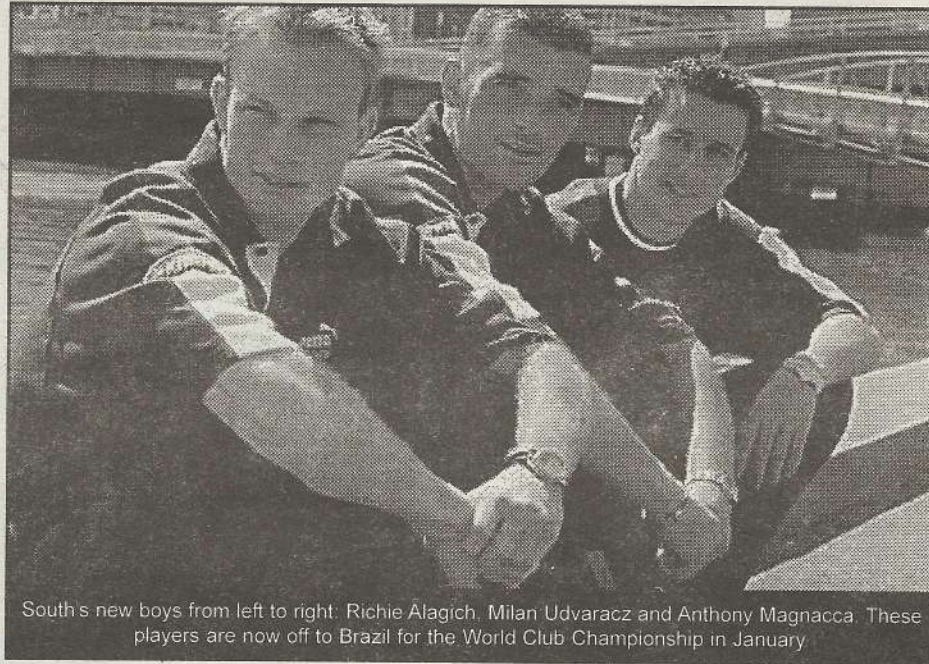
With the result beyond doubt, coach Ange Postecoglou made several substitutions with Lozanovski, Curcija and Clarkson being substituted for Tsekinis, Magnacca and Goutzioulis.

Chances by Fausto De Amicis and Vaughan Coveny in the 62nd and 67th would have extended the lead but for some brave saves by the Nadi goalkeeper.

But when Magnacca was fouled inside the box in the 73rd minute and South was awarded another penalty, the keeper could do nothing but watch as Steve Panopoulos calmly slotted in goal number five.

Nadi fans were treated to a brilliant goal to striker Watisoni Voli in the last few minutes. Voli lifted the ball above the Australian goalkeeper for his side's only goal.

It lifted spirits, and saw a resurgence in the Nadi attacks. "That was basically what we should have done in the first



South's new boys from left to right: Richie Alagich, Milan Udvaracz and Anthony Magnacca. These players are now off to Brazil for the World Club Championship in January.

spell," lamented coach Gurjeet Singh.

"We missed centre-link Maika Kasami out there today, but anyway, I thought the boys played well towards the end.

"We had Melbourne under pressure. The game was a good exposure for the boys, most of whom had never played against an overseas side before.

"We lost composure in the first spell but in the end, we just did not play according to our game-plan," he said to Fiji media after the game.

The favourite to reach the final with South, Central Utd, went out in the semis to Nadi, underscoring the improvement in the locals' game.

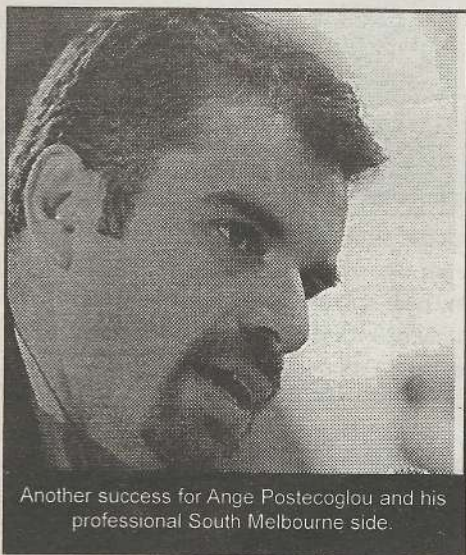
Sadly, with Melbourne's sports media firmly in the grip of its AFL Grand Final,

and its unexpected win in the NRL, South's win received little coverage in the Melbourne media, with The Age the only significant contribution.

South General Manager Damien Phillips said it was an amazing achievement. "We now have the opportunity to play in front of a global TV audience similar to the World Cup. Playing against sides like Real Madrid and Manchester Utd will be enormous exposure for our club.

"It's just a bit disappointing that the media and public don't realise or appreciate the magnitude of this," said Phillips.

The players arrived back about 2pm yesterday, just after Inside Soccer went to press. Next week we hope to bring you the full story of what happened from the South players' point of view.



Another success for Ange Postecoglou and his professional South Melbourne side.

goal since joining three seasons ago, was ecstatic when his long attempt from outside the penalty box found the back of the net.

The goal inspired South into count-

MURRAY SCORES FOR SAPPHIRES IN OPENER

Matilda star Julie Murray scored in the opening game of the Ansett Australia Summer Series, when NSW Sapphires travelled to Newcastle to meet the Northern NSW Pride.

The Sapphires dominated the first 20 minutes of the game but failed to capitalise. The Sapphires played solid on-the-ground passing soccer and demonstrated their better control over the much younger NNSW Pride outfit.

A lapse in defensive concentration in the 38th minute allowed a gap for 14-year-old NNSW Pride midfielder Amber Neilsen to let fly a right foot blast to the far post which saw her score.

The first half was characterised by strong physical clashes causing the referee to call out a number of players from both sides without issuing formal cautions.

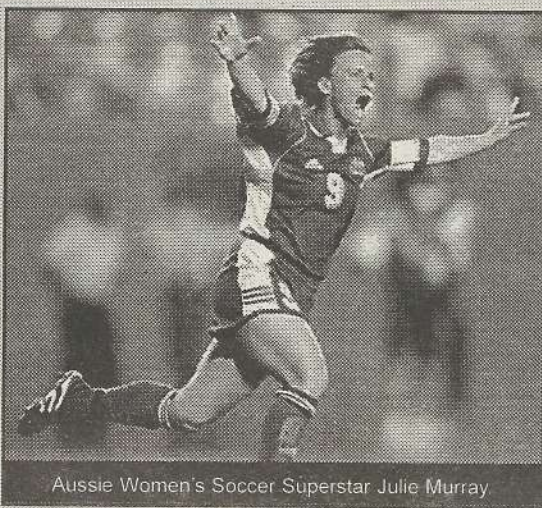
In the second half, the Sapphires goal area was rarely in danger, with the solid defence of Australian internationals Anissa Tann-Darby and Bridgette Starr, assisted by NSWIS' Taryn Rockall.

The Sapphires defensive midfield and back-line effectively shut down former Australian International Sunni Hughes throughout the game. Australian U/21 goalkeeper Cassandra Kell for the Sapphires was hardly tested in the second half.

Australian Matilda's World Cup Captain Julie Murray was the main playmaker for the Sapphires, organising well in the middle of the park.

Australian International Kelly Golebiowski and Australian U/21 Michelle Carney up front for the Sapphires constantly outclassed the NNSW Pride defence. There were some heavy clashes between Australian Matilda's team-mates Julie Murray and NNSW Pride's Alison Foreman throughout the game.

Australian U/21 Alicia Cavanagh levelled the



Aussie Women's Soccer Superstar Julie Murray

scoreboard with a strong header from a left side corner in the 57th minute.

Four minutes later, the Sapphires raided the NNSW Pride defence again, with Julie Murray hitting low into the right hand upright, catapulting the ball back into the goal. In the 90th minute of normal time, Heather Garriock finished up the NSW Sapphires account for the day.

NNSW Pride Goalkeeper Jenny Praszczalek kept her team in the game by pulling off a number point-blank saves.

In other games around Australia, QAS Sting held Victoria Vision to a 0-0 draw in Brisbane, while 98/99 Ansett Australia Summer Series Champions SASI Pirates defeated last season's runners up the ACTAS Canberra Eclipse 2-1 in Adelaide. NSW Sapphires are next at home to QAS Sting at VSP on Saturday 2 October 1999 at 3pm.

COSMOS PLAYERS TAKE OVER THE OFFICE!

By Aidan Ormond

6.45).

Here's a first. Canberra Cosmos players felt they could do a better job at marketing the team, so the club has given them the chance to prove it. Four players, Ivo De Jesus, Gabriel Gonzales, Nick Purdue and Harry James are now running the show!

"We raised it that we did not have a say in how the promotions and marketing was done," said De Jesus.

"The club then decided, after meetings with us, that we knew what we were doing and actually had ideas.

"We felt in the past that it could have been done better, so we are doing something about.

"We are currently looking at sponsorship of individual players and media tie-ups.

"I think the club has turned around on and off the ground. We now have local TV and radio behind us, so I don't see why we can't get more than five thousand this Friday night when we play the Force."

The club has planned a march past the supporters for all its junior soccer players (starting

The band Ice Cream Headache will play their local number one song, free soccer balls will be kicked to the crowd and a basketball style entrance, with the players being introduced individually to the crowd, is all part of Friday night Football at Bruce Stadium.

The marketing team went along to Perisher Snowfields recently (after the Snowy Hydro Cup in Cooma), as guest of Peter Craig who is a local soccer identity in the region.

It is believed that fans from these areas, including Cooma, will be there this Friday night for the first Cosmos game.

Cooma, Jindabyne and Perisher Blue are areas that Cosmos would like to include in their marketing strategy.

The marketing team would like to thank Mick Rawson at Perisher Blue for his hospitality on their recent visit.



Ram INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER

AUSTRALIA BEATS NEW ZEALAND

In the first of two tests the Australian Schoolboys deservedly beat their New Zealand counterparts 2-0.

Both goals were scored in the second half. The first was a curling right foot shot from the Australian Luch Lucchesi although the New Zealand goalkeeper may have misjudged it because he made no attempt to stop it.

The second was a good header from Daniel Dreger. Again, although the goal was well taken, it seemed that the 'keeper was not in a good position.

The second half was much

better than first half. The first half was quite dreary with only a shot from Australia that hit the bar and went over and a good one-on-one stop by the Australian keeper anything approaching highlights.

The game was played in pretty good spirit with one yellow card to an Australian in the first half being the only blemish.

There were not many people there, as expected, although there appeared to be more bar-racking for New Zealand.

The second test will be played Tuesday at 7:00 at Brisbane Lions.



Blacktown's West Ham Soccer Academy ... after a hard training session.

ON THE WAY TO STARDOM?

With the success of so many Australian players overseas there are literally thousands dreaming of emulating the Kewells, Vidukas, Okons and so many others that are becoming household names in Europe and in Australia.

We now have a couple of English clubs with their own football school of excellence in Australia trying to find the next Aussie superstar.

West Ham is one of those clubs with their school located as part of the Blacktown Demons Soccer Club.

Young players of today can also go to special sport schools where they get as much focus on their physical fitness and football skills as they do on mathematics and spelling.

The best known of these schools is Westfield Sports High School which is located in the western suburbs of Sydney.

One young player aspiring to reach the heights of Kewell and other Aussie exports is Stefan Del Zio.

Stefan is fortunate enough to be able to take advantage of the systems available in Australia by attending Westfield Sports High and being part of the Blacktown Demons West Ham Soccer Academy.

The Del Zios are making a family commitment to Australian football with Stefan's father, Vince, putting in a lot of money into the newly formed Parramatta Power team.

Del Zio senior is the CEO of Power Credit Union which has its head office in the Parramatta CBD and who, as announced last Tuesday, are the major sponsors of Power.

Stefan is about to embark on a trip of a lifetime. As part of the West Ham Soccer Academy each year four boys get to spend two weeks training with West Ham. Having been chosen as one of the four lucky winners Stefan is looking forward to improving his skills under some of the best junior coaches in the world. And accompanying Stefan will be proud father Vince.

Inside Soccer spoke to thirteen year Stefan on the eve of his dream trip. We asked him what his ambitions were: "To do my best in soccer and reach the highest level and represent my country, of course," was Stefan's reply.

Like most boys with the ambition that Stefan has he is very committed and trains very hard. "I train six days a week - three morning sessions with Westfields and two afternoon sessions with Blacktown as well as one session on my own," Stefan told Inside Soccer. With each session being over three hours Stefan trains around twenty hours each week.

With schoolwork on top of that it requires a lot of dedication from young boys such as Stefan to keep at it over a number of years. Dedication is something Stefan's mother believes he certainly has - Mrs Del Zio told Inside Soccer: "Soccer is all he thinks about, he has to get up early to do both his training and schoolwork and to do both he has to have a lot of dedication. He loves what he is doing." Her advice to Stefan is to "follow his heart and follow his dreams, if that is what he wants that is what will happen. When you love something it can happen for you."

Like most boys Stefan's ultimate goal is to play overseas with England being his desired destination and David Beckham his favourite player.

Describing himself as a hard working player with vision sounds like he has modeled his game on Beckham and may one day attain the same heights.



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GET YOUR HANDS ON ONE

Win a copy of Ice Cream Headache's latest CD - the Canberra Cosmos Supporters' Anthem & Chants! Peter Bayliss (second from left) is the lead singer and bass player of top band Ice Cream Headache. A first name is common to each of the others in the photo: lead guitarist Cole, drummer Price and keyboard star Staff.

Tick which one it is:

☐ Diego ☐ Franz
☐ David ☐ Edson

Clues: Cosmos player Arranz, Parramatta Power coach Mitchell and Spurs star Ginola share that first name too!

To enter:

Make your selection, cut out the coupon and post, with your name and address on the back of the envelope to:

ICH CD Competition
1/24 Prince William Drive, Seven Hills NSW 2147

The first correct entry drawn on Friday Oct 1 will win the CD signed by Ice Cream Headache. The winner will be announced in the Inside Soccer issue of Oct 5.



VIDUKA BACK WITH A BANG FOR CELTIC



Mark Viduka celebrates one of his goals.

By John Vrtaric

English Premier League:

Mark Bosnich is taking turns to play second fiddle - in mid week he was back up to Raimond Van Der Gouw in the Champions Cup game against Austria's Sturm Graz whilst on the weekend he remained on the bench for Manchester United as reserve to Massimo Taibi in their 3-3 draw with Southampton.

With United performing well in both the domestic league and the Champions Cup Bosnich can look forward to further bench warming, although Taibi was responsible for a bad error which allowed Southampton to score on the weekend - Alex Ferguson won't tolerate too many mistakes and that may be Bosnich's way of getting back in.

After scoring his first goal of the season last week Harry Kewell scored again in Leeds United's 3-2 victory over a rejuvenated Newcastle United. With goals flowing for him now Kewell is close to being the form player of the English Premier League. Kewell's brilliant performances on the left has inspired his young team mates to a thus far brilliant season as they chase the title favourites Manchester United, whom they trail by two points.

Mark Schwarzer was again solid, playing the whole game, for Middlesbrough as they lost at home to a solitary goal from Chelsea. Schwarzer's team has had a mixed start to the season winning four of the nine games and losing all of the other five but, nevertheless, sitting comfortably in mid table.

John Aloisi still has not recovered from his injury of two weeks ago and was not part of the Coventry squad in its one goal to nil win over West Ham. Aloisi will need to become a consistent scorer upon his return as

Coventry seems set on another year of struggle as they currently sit a point above relegation zone having played a game more than the third from bottom team Wimbledon.

Richard Johnson, one of the forgotten Australians, was missing from his team Watford's 1-0 loss to Arsenal in London.

Meanwhile West Ham's second team grabbed their first win of the season at Wimbledon courtesy of a Michael Ferrante strike.

Played in trying conditions at Sutton United's Gander Green Lane, West Ham's young Aussie hit home after a good move just short of the half-time whistle. Two of West Ham's other Australians Chris Coyne and Richard Garcia were also part of the winning team.

Nationwide Division 1:

Stan Lazarides' Birmingham City continued its bright start to the season with a 2-0 win over Queens Park Rangers but he wasn't able to provide the same sort of spark for his team as last week as he had to be replaced after 23 minutes.

Birmingham sits on top of the Division 1 ladder although they had played one more game than equal second placed Manchester City and Ipswich and third placed Fullham. For QPR George Kulscar will be absent for a little while as he recovers from his meningitis scare.

Australia's large contingent of goalkeepers in the first division all had full games for their respective teams although only one of them was victorious. Jason Kearon's Crew Alexander team was defeated three goals to nil by title aspirants Fullham, while both Frank Talia's Swindon Town

and Andy Petterson's Portsmouth were also beaten. Swindon went down 2-0 to Port Vale while Grimsby inflicted a 2-1 home defeat to Portsmouth. Blackburn's John Filan was the only one to taste success as his team defeated Walsall 2-0.

For Portsmouth Mike Panopolous played a full game for the second week in a row since his move from Greece.

Three Australians were featured in the game between Sheffield United and Wolverhampton Wanderers. Shaun Murphy played a full game for Sheffield United as they inflicted a 3-0 defeat of the Wolves, for whom Kevin Muscat was replaced in the 78th minute, while Steve Corica was similarly replaced in the 65th minute. Muscat continued to live up to his 'tough man' image with another yellow card.

After his recent consistent appearances for West Bromwich Albion in the early part of the season Jason Van Blerk started on the bench in the scoreless draw against Crystal Palace and stayed there for the whole game. For Palace neither Craig Foster nor Nick

Whilst Tiatto and Lazarides are part of successful teams the other Australians are not doing as well with their respective teams. Portsmouth, Sheffield United and Blackburn are sitting in the middle of the table whilst the other teams, Crewe, Wolverhampton, Crystal Palace and Swindon, are all towards the bottom and looking like they are in for a long season.

Nationwide Division 2:

All three Australians in the Nationwide Second Division played full games but their teams achieved mixed results.

Tim Cahill, who wants to be an Olyroo and current Olyroo Lucas Neill both played full games as Millwall beat Colchester 1-0. Cahill a 19 year old raised in Australia played in Western Samoa's Youth team as a 14 year old and has thus far been ruled ineligible to represent Australia although he desperately wants to be part of the Olyroo team at next year's Olympics. His manager believes that the Australian authorities are incorrect in the rule interpretation and is prepared to take it all the way to get his client to represent him homeland.

In the 1-1 draw between Reading and Oldham Andrew Bernal again completed the whole game for Reading.

Scottish Premier League:

The successful run of Tony Vidmar as part of the all conquering Rangers team finally came to an end during the week with the return of Dutchman Artur Numan from injury.

Vidmar was left on the bench for both games played by Rangers during the week. In midweek Rangers narrowly missed a great win over Bayern Munchen when the visitors equalised in the last minute and on the weekend they beat St Johnston 3-1. On the other hand Craig Moore continues at the heart of Rangers' defence and played the whole game against both opponents.

Stuart Lovell made a run on appearance for Hibernian but was replaced in the 88th minute in the team's 2-0 home loss to Celtic. For the visitors Mark Viduka made a triumphant return from injury by scoring both goals, in the 56th and 66th minutes.

Rangers continue to lead the Premier League ahead of Celtic and currently have a two

point lead - it should be a fascinating duel between Moore and Viduka when the two sides meet.

Europe:

In the Croatian First Division Josip Skoko was absent from the first team squad but Tony Grdic played a full game in Hajduk's 0-0 away draw at Slaven Belupo.

David Zdrilic scored his second goal of the season in the German Bundesliga, in the 60th minute, he played the full game which the struggling SSV Ulm drew 2-2 with 'Werder Bremen. Ulm has slipped back into the relegation zone as it now sits second from the bottom of the table and will be struggling to hold onto the newly found first division status.

Ned Zelic and Paul Agoston were both included in TSV Munchen's squad for the weekend game against Hansa Rostock with whom they drew 2-2. However, neither saw any action but at least they were included in the team plans as Zelic had not been part of the squad since he was sent off four weeks ago until this game.

Much better news for Josip Simunic, the former Melbourne Knights' sweeper whose return from long term injury is finally showing signs of being successful - he made his second appearance as substitute, in the 82nd minute, for his club Hamburg who drew 2-2 with Wolfsburg. Hamburg, after leading the Bundesliga for the duration of this season have slipped back into third spot behind Bayer Leverkusen for whom Frank Juric did not play in their 3-1 win over Kaiserslautern.

In the Italian Serie A competition Ante Seric, the Australian born Croatian international, was a substitute for his team Verona and came onto the pitch with a few minutes before the end of the game which Verona lost at home to Bari. Paul Okon was not so lucky as, although he was included in the Fiorentina squad for the game against Udinese, he did not make an appearance in the game which ended in a one all draw.

In Holland Zeljko Kalac played a full game in goals for his team Roda JC in their 3-0 win over Fortuna Sittard. Neither Jason Culina nor Joe Bacak appeared for their respective teams in Ajax's 3-1 win over Vitesse.

In Spain Kosta Salapasis made an appearance for his team Compostela in the second division when he came on in the 86th minute - his team is currently running fourth.



Harry Kewell

Rizzo were part of the squad and Andrew McDermott was again missing from the West Brom squad.

Mark Robertson again failed to make the Burnley squad for the game against Bristol City for whom Tynan Scope remained on the bench for the whole game. The game ended in a scoreless draw.

In Manchester Danny Tiatto was part of the starting lineup in the game against Ipswich but was replaced in the 78th minute but had time to be booked before he went off. Danny Allsop was included in the City squad but did not see any action.

UNITED HELD AT HOME BY SOUTHAMPTON

Premiership leaders Manchester United were held to a surprise 3-3 draw by Southampton despite twice taking the lead at Old Trafford.

Sir Alex Ferguson's side went behind to a Marians Pahars goal on 17 minutes and seemed to struggling to shake off another European hangover - having fallen behind to Wimbledon last week.

But Teddy Sheringham, in for the suspended Andy Cole, struck back with a goal 11 minutes before the break.

Then last year's 29-goal top-scorer Dwight Yorke turned the game around with a second.

But Saints were not to be denied and substitute Matt Le Tissier grabbed an equaliser on 51 minutes thanks to a horrific blunder by United keeper Massimo Taibi.

Yorke fired United back ahead on 64 minutes but Le Tissier returned the favour nearly 10 minutes later, thanks to another defensive blunder - this time by Mickael Silvestre.

Leeds closed the gap on United to two points despite Alan Shearer continuing his goalscoring purple patch as he bagged two goals for Newcastle.

But a Michael Bridges rocket into the top gave Leeds all the points as they won 3-2.

David O'Leary's side took a 11th minute lead through Lee Bowyer.

The England Under-21 international despatched a powerful shot from just inside the area into goalkeeper Steve Harper's top corner for his fifth goal of the season.

Harry Kewell's second in two games doubled United's advantage, only for England skipper Alan Shearer, rampant after his five goals against Sheffield Wednesday last week, to force the ball home minutes before the interval and then followed up on 54 minutes.

Arsenal moved up to third as they left it late to break down a staunch Watford rearguard.

But Nwankwo Kanu's 86th minute strike broke the deadlock and clinched three vital points.

Paul Gascoigne was sent off in injury time for foul and abusive language as Chelsea chalked up their first victory at Middlesbrough since 1931.

A close-range strike from Bernard Lambourde after Gianfranco Zola's free-kick rebounded off the post was enough to separate the teams at the Riverside.

Struggling Bradford, third from bottom at the start of the day, looked up against it at Derby when former Chelsea defender Andy Myers received his marching orders for his second yellow card in the

33rd minute.

But just minutes later both teams were down to 10 as Derby's Argentinian forward Esteban Fuentes was dismissed for foul and abusive language.

And a Horatio Carbonari own goal on 66 minutes was enough to give the Bantams a 1-0 win.

Mustapha Hadji's first Premiership goal was enough to give Coventry a 1-0 victory over West Ham at Highfield Road.

He headed home after 36 minutes to hand the Hammers their second straight Premiership defeat.

Muzzy Izzet's strike (40) at Filbert Street set the ball rolling for Leicester against Aston Villa as Leicester ran out 3-1 winners.

The Foxes added to Villa's woes when a Gareth Southgate own goal (48) and a Tony Cottee effort (55) increased the score.

Southgate's dismal afternoon was complete when he was sent off for pulling back Emile Heskey who was through on goal.

Dion Dublin gained a consolation goal for John Gregory's men 17 minutes from time.

Sheffield Wednesday, beaten 8-0 last weekend, kept the score down at the Stadium of Light but still finishing on the losing side.

A Stefan Schwarz strike on the 55th minute was enough for a 1-0 Sunderland who moved up to fourth.

Rangers continued their dominance of the Bank of Scotland Scottish Premier with a 3-1 home win over St Johnstone.

Jorg Albertz put Rangers firmly in charge with the opener on 33 minutes and a penalty on 59.

But Dick Advocaat's men had some nervous moments when Miguel Simao pulled a goal back for the visitors on 61.

Dutchman Michael Mols netted three minutes from time though to wrap up the points for Rangers.

Celtic are still two points behind their Old Firm rivals thanks to a Mark Viduka double at Hibernian.

He struck on 56 and 66 minutes to give the Bhoys a 2-0 victory at Easter Road.

Another striker at the double was Stephane Adam, who helped Hearts to a 2-0 victory at Dundee United. The Frenchman opened the scoring on 14 minutes and assured victory with a second on 89.

Dundee gained three vital points with a 2-0 away win at Kilmarnock.

Midfielder Stephen Boyack opened the scoring on 41 minutes and Gavin Rae wrapped things up seven minutes from the end.



Thierry Henry started the game for Arsenal ahead of Bergkamp.

PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

ENGLAND

Arsenal 1	Watford 0
Kanu 86	
Coventry 1	West Ham 0
Hadji 36	
Derby 0	Bradford 1
Carbonari Og 66	
Leeds 3	Newcastle 2
Bowyer 11	Shearer 42, 54
Kewell 39	
Bridges 77	
Leicester 3	Aston Villa 1
Izzet 40	Dublin 73
Southgate og 48	
Cottee 55	
Man Utd 3	Southampton 3
Sheringham 34	Pahars 17
Yorke 37, 64	Le Tissier 51,
73	
M'sbrough 0	Chelsea 1
Lambourde 54	
Sunderland 1	Sheff Wed 0

Schwarz 51	Tottenham 1
Wimbledon 1	Carr 76
Hartson 57	

SCOTLAND

Dundee Utd 0	Hearts 2
	Adam 14, 89
Hibernian 0	Celtic 2
	Viduka 56, 66
Kilmarnock 0	Dundee 2
	Boyack 41
	Rae 83
Rangers 3	St Johnstone 1
Albertz 33, 59p	Simao 61
Mols 87	

Arsenal (0) 1 Watford (0) 0
Arsenal: Manninger, Luzhny, Keown, Adams, Silvinho, Ljungberg (Suker 68), Parlour, Vieira, Overmars, Henry (Bergkamp 74), Kanu (Vivas 88).
Goals: Kanu 86.
Watford: Chamberlain, Gibbs, Page, Williams, Robinson, Wootter (Wright 85), Hyde, Palmer, Kennedy, Foley (Easton 89), Smart (Ngongue 54).
Booked: Robinson, Page, Williams, Kennedy.
Att: 38,127
Coventry (1) 1 West Ham (0) 0
Coventry: Hedman, Edworthy, Shaw, Korjic, Hall, Telfer, Palmer, McAllister (McSheffrey 84), Chippo (Williams 61), Hadji, Keane.
Booked: Edworthy, Chippo, Palmer.
Goals: Hadji 36.
West Ham: Hiaop, Potts, Stimac, Foe, Keller (Newton 77), Lomas, Moncur, Lampard, Sinclair, Di Canio, Wanchope.
Sent Off: Moncur (71).
Booked: Wanchope, Stimac, Moncur.
Att: 19,993
Derby (0) 0 Bradford (0) 1
Derby: Hoult, Prior, Carbonari, Elliott, Borboks (Harper 65), Johnson, Delap, Baiano (Murray 83), Dorigo, Fuentes, Sturridge (Christie 78).
Sent Off: Fuentes (36).
Booked: Johnson, Baiano.
Bradford: Walsh, O'Brien, Wetherall, Halle, Myers, Whalley, Blake (Windass 78), McCall, Beagrie (Westwood 76), Saunders (Jacobs 62), Mills.
Sent Off: Myers (33).
Booked: Myers.

Goals: Carbonari 66 og.
Att: 31,035
Leeds (2) 3 Newcastle (1) 2
Leeds: Martyn, Kelly, Woodgate, Radebe, Harte, Bakke (Haaland 78), Batty, Bowyer, Kewell, Smith (Huckaby 73), Bridges.
Booked: Martyn, Radebe, Smith, Kelly, Batty.
Goals: Bowyer 11, Kewell 39, Bridges 77.
Newcastle: Harper, Barton, Marcellino, Goma, Domi, Solano, McClen (Charvet 73), Speed, Dyer, Shearer, Ketsbala (Robinson 43).
Subs Not Used: Glass, Hughes, Wright.
Booked: Domi, Marcellino, Speed.
Goals: Shearer 42, 54.
Att: 40,192
Leicester (1) 3 Aston Villa (0) 1
Leicester: Flowers, Gilchrist, Elliott, Sinclair, Izzet, Lennon, Guppy, Savage (Zagorakis 85), Impey, Heskey, Cottee (Marshall 82).
Booked: Flowers.
Goals: Izzet 40, Southgate 48 og, Cottee 55.
Aston Villa: Enckelman, Watson (Dejaney 63), Southgate, Ehlogu, Hendrie, Boateng, Taylor, Thompson (Calderwood 66), Barry, Dublin, Joachim.
Sent Off: Southgate (65).
Booked: Watson, Southgate, Hendrie.
Goals: Dublin 73.
Att: 19,917
Man Utd (2) 3 Southampton (1) 3
Man Utd: Taibi, Irwin, Stam, Berg, Silvestre, Beckham, Butt, Scholes, Soiskjaer, Yorke, Sheringham.

Booked: Berg, Scholes.
Goals: Sheringham 34, Yorke 37, 64.
Southampton: Jones, Dodd, Lundekvam (Marsden 69), Richards, Benall, Ripley, Soltvedt (Le Tissier 45), Oakley, Kachoul, Pahars (Beattie 90), Hughes.
Goals: Pahars 17, Le Tissier 51, 73.
Att: 55,249
Middlesbrough (0) 0 Chelsea (0) 1
Middlesbrough: Schwarzer, Fleming, Festa, Pallister, Cooper, Ziege, Juninho (Armstrong 89), Ince (Mustoe 35), O'Neill, Deane (Gascoigne 70), Ricard.
Sent Off: Gascoigne (90).
Booked: Ziege, O'Neill, Ricard, Cooper.
Chelsea: De Goey, Lambourde, Leboeuf, Desailly, Le Saux, Petrescu, Deschamps (Morris 90), Wise, Ambrossetti (Babayaro 70), Sutton, Zola (Flo 70).
Booked: Sutton, Desailly, Petrescu, Deschamps.
Goals: Lambourde 54.
Att: 34,183
Sunderland (0) 1 Sheff Wed (0) 0
Sunderland: Sorensen, Makin, Butler, Bould, Gray, Summerbee, Ball (Rae 45), McCann, Schwarz, Quinn (Dichio 85), Phillips.
Goals: Schwarz 51.
Sheff Wed: Srnicek, Thome, Walker, Briscoe, Rudl (Jonk 63), Sonner, Donnelly (Sibon 83), Alexandersson, Nolan, Booth, De Blide (Cresswell 83).
Att: 41,132
Wimbledon (0) 1 Tottenham (0) 1
Wimbledon: Sullivan, Cunningham,

Roberts, Blackwell, Thatcher, Cort, Hartson, Euell, Gayle, Badir, Andersen (Kimble 85).
Sent Off: Hartson (79).
Goals: Hartson 57.
Tottenham: Walker, Carr, Taricco, Freund, Perry, Sherwood, Iversen, Armstrong (Dominguez 79), Leonhardsen, Young, Nielsen.
Booked: Taricco, Sherwood.
Goals: Carr 76.
Att: 17,368
Dundee Utd (0) 0 Hearts (1) 2
Dundee Utd: Combe, Pascual, De Vos, Jonsson (McCulloch 72), Partridge, Hannah, Easton (Skoldmark 79), Telesnikov, Paterson (Thompson 46), Dodds, Ferraz.
Subs Not Used: Gallacher, Davidson.
Booked: Partridge, Telesnikov.
Hearts: Rousset, Pressley, Ritchie, James, Naysmith, Jackson (Wales 85), Fiogel, Severin, Cameron, Adam, McSwegan (Fulton 79).
Subs Not Used: McKenzie, Locke, Murray.
Booked: Cameron.
Goals: Adam 14, 89.
Att: 8,510
Ref: Michael McCurry (Scotland).
Hibernian (0) 0 Celtic (0) 2
Hibernian: Gottskalksson, Lovering, Sauzee, Dennis, Lovell (Lehmann 88), Paatelainen, Latapy, Hartley (Crawford 67), Renwick, Jack, Brebner (Dempsey 89).
Sent Off: Sauzee (55), Lovering (80).
Booked: Renwick, Brebner, Sauzee, Dennis, Lovering.

Celtic: Kharine, McNamara, Riseth, Stubbs, Tabbly, Moravcik, Blinker, Petrov, Viduka, Lambert, Larsson.
Subs Not Used: Gould, Brattbakk, Burchill, Petta, Wieghorst.
Booked: McNamara, Stubbs, Larsson.
Goals: Viduka 56, 66.
Att: 14,743
Kilmarnock (0) 0 Dundee (1) 2
Kilmarnock: Meldrum, MacPherson, McGowne, Dindeleux (Hessey 87), Baker, Varelle (Jeffrey 73), Holt, Reilly, Durrant, McCoist, Burke (Mahood 87).
Sent Off: McGowne (62).
Booked: Baker, Burke.
Dundee: Douglas, Smith, Tweed, Rae, Wilkie, Maddison, Boyack, McKimming, Van Eljs, Annand (Grady 83), Falconer (Matute 83).
Booked: Falconer, Maddison, Annand.
Goals: Boyack 41, Rae 83.
Att: 7,433
Rangers (1) 3 St Johnstone (0) 1
Rangers: Charbonnier, Adamczuk, Moore, Hendry, Numan, Kanchelskis, Van Bronckhorst, Ferguson (McCann 38), Albertz, Mols, Johansson (Wallace 45).
Goals: Albertz 33, 59 pen, Mols 87.
St Johnstone: Main, McQuillan, Weir, Griffin, Bolland, O'Halloran, Dasovic, O'Neill, Kane (McAnespie 57), Lowndes (Parker 82), Thomas (Simao 45).
Booked: Weir.
Goals: Simao 61.
Att: 47,145

UNITED THE TERMINATOR IN AUSTRIA

Manchester United turned terminator against Sturm Graz in the Arnold Schwarzenegger Stadium to kickstart the defence of their Champions' League crown.

The Treble winners won with three goals inside 17 first-half minutes to claim their first three points of their Group D campaign.

Just as United had hoped, Sturm proved to be the perfect pick-me-up following their disappointing draws against Croatia Zagreb and Wimbledon.

Sturm defended like a team that has lost three and drawn three of their last six matches and taken just one point from their seven Champions' League games.

However the win was not as easy for United as the scoreline suggests and Sturm had their chances.

Striker Ivica Vastic, who has scored 10 goals in 15 games this season, was the worst culprit and he missed one gilt-edged chance before he fluffed a penalty.

David Beckham almost spoiled United's night and the England midfielder was fortunate not to be dismissed for kicking Tomislav Kocijan in the second half.

Sturm started well and Kocijan forced a decent stop from Raimond Van der Gouw, who was preferred once again to Mark Bosnich.

The Austrian double winners were causing United one or two anxious moments, until Roy Keane scored in the 16th minute to change the complexion of the game completely.

Beckham drove a free-kick at the Sturm wall, following a foul by Franco Foda on Dwight Yorke, and when the rebound fell to the United skipper 30 yards out, he cracked the ball home right-footed off the underside of the bar.

Sturm goalkeeper Kazimierz Sidorczuk stood rooted to the spot, thinking Keane's drive would fly over the top, but instead it nestled in the back of his net.

United were buzzing now and Cole turned and shot straight at Sidorczuk before Jordi Cruyff ballooned an effort well over the top.

Sturm tried to hit back and Jan-Pieter Martens ran at the United defence before unleashing a shot, which failed to trouble Van der Gouw.

United showed Sturm how to finish again when they doubled their advantage on 31 minutes.

Beckham swung in a corner from the right and Yorke headed home a simple goal from seven yards out.

Again the hapless Sidorczuk was at fault and the Pole was slow to react as Yorke's header passed underneath his right hand.

Sturm were left with a mountain to climb as steep as the almost vertical Schlossberg hill in the centre of town when

they conceded a third two minutes later.

Yorke turned provider to play Cole in on the right and he held off Ferdinand Feldhofer to slip the ball home under Sidorczuk.

To their credit, Sturm rallied and Van der Gouw expertly touched a Vastic free-kick away for a corner before he pushed a powerful drive from Roman Mahlich over the bar.

Gerald Strafer also went close twice with a shot and a header.

Just after the interval came Beckham's stupid show of petulance.

He was annoyed when he was not awarded a free-kick after he was obstructed by Kocijan and kicked the Sturm midfielder with his right boot right in front of the fourth official.

But just like at Liverpool, where he kicked Steven Gerrard and then Jamie Redknapp, Beckham escaped a red card.

However the home fans were not so forgiving and after cheering him before the match, they now booed his every touch of the ball.

Sturm were determined to give their fans something to cheer rather than jeer and they pushed forward in search of a goal.

Vastic should have scored when Gilbert Prilasnig played him clean through, but the Sturm skipper sliced his right-footed shot wide.

Roman Mahlich then drove just centimetres wide before Gunther Neukirchner fired a powerful shot into Van der Gouw's arms.

Sturm's pressure was rewarded when they won a penalty on 54 minutes after Phil Neville brought down Kocijan.

However Vastic, who would have trouble scoring into an empty net judging by his form in this game, hit the spot-kick weakly at Van der Gouw.

Beckham was eventually booked, but ironically he was more sinned against than sinner.

Mahlich tugged his shirt before pushing him over and when Beckham tried to pick up the ball, he obstructed him.

Mahlich's booking was understandable, but Beckham's was harsh and a furious Ferguson leapt from the bench to remonstrate with the referee.

Mahlich was hauled off by Sturm two minutes later before he was sent off and calm returned to the final minutes of the game.

Chelsea's Champions' League hopes suffered a blow as they were beaten 2-1 by Hertha Berlin for whom Ali Daei struck a brace.

The Iranian striker crashed home a goal in each half to shatter Gianluca Vialli's best-laid European plans.

Frank Leboeuf grabbed a late penalty to offer some hope to the Londoners but Hertha Berlin, who surrendered a two-goal lead against Galatasaray, held out for

their first Champions' League win.

Chelsea faced an uphill struggle from the third minute when Daei pounced to head home a left-wing cross.

They could have been further behind before the break but were enjoying their best spell of the game when they gifted Daei his second of the night 20 minutes from time.

Leboeuf's spot-kick offered late hope but Chelsea's inability to find the net continued to haunt them. It is now five games since Dan Petrescu became the last player to score from open play.

Barcelona tore apart Fiorentina to record their second win in Group B and maintain a two-point advantage over Arsenal.

They saw off the Italians 4-2, with Luis Figo and Luis Enrique giving them a 2-0 lead inside 10 minutes before Gabriel Batistuta pulled a goal back early in the second half.

Two goals in as many second half minutes - one a penalty - from Brazilian ace Rivaldo, gave the Nou Camp side a 4-1 lead, before Enrico Chiesa pulled a goal back 11 minutes from time.

Meanwhile, Marseille registered their second win in Group D - Manchester United's group - as they won 2-1 at Croatia Zagreb.

Former Everton striker Ibrahima Bakayoko gave the French side a fifth-minute lead and, after Tomo Sokota levelled after 64 minutes, Sebastien Perez gave Marseille the win with a goal 13 minutes from time.

In Group A, two goals in as many minutes enabled Lazio to come from behind and sink Dinamo Kiev.

Sergei Rebrov's 68th-minute penalty gave Kiev the lead - but their advantage lasted just two minutes.

Paolo Negro levelled and Marcelo Salas was on target two minutes later as the Italian side won 2-1 to join Bayer Leverkusen at the top of the group.

Leverkusen won 2-0 at Maribor - but they left it late. Goals inside the last eight minutes from Boris Zivkovic and Ulf Kirsten gave the German side the victory.

Former Newcastle striker Jon Dahl Tomasson was on target in an eventful first half of Feyenoord's 2-2 draw with Rosenborg.

Tomasson gave the Dutch side the lead but John Carew levelled after 21 minutes. Bonaventure Kalou restored the visitors' lead within 60 seconds but just two minutes later Carew tied the scores again - and that was how it stayed.

In the other game in Group C, Borussia Dortmund sank Portuguese outfit Boavista 3-1. Fredi Bobic's second-half double proved deci-



AC Milan's Brazilian international Leonardo

sive after Rui Bento had cancelled out Andreas Moller's 40th-minute opener for the Germans.

Two goals in a minute before half-time helped AC Milan see off Galatasaray in Chelsea's Champions' League group.

Leonardo opened the scoring at the San Siro and Andrei Shevchenko, a £15.7million buy from Dynamo Kiev, doubled the advantage soon after.

Although winger Umit Davala responded for the visitors, the Turkish outfit could not find an equaliser and languish at the bottom of Group H alongside Chelsea.

In Group G, Bordeaux won an exciting clash with Willem II, after squandering a 2-0 lead.

The hosts looked set for the three points thanks to Raymond Victoria's own goal after 17 minutes and Lilian Laslandes' effort five minutes later.

But Yassine Abdellaoui pulled one back five minutes before the interval and Ousmane Sanou's 70th-minute effort looked to have earned the Dutch side a point.

However, young substitute Pascal Feindouno chipped a brilliant winner seven minutes from time to seal a 3-2 win for the French side.

Earlier in the day Spartak Moscow had hit back to draw with Sparta Prague. Artyom

Bezrodny's 73rd-minute effort cancelled out Vratislav Lokvenc's 17th-minute opener for Sparta.

Valencia, opening day conquerors of Rangers in Group F, were pegged back by PSV Eindhoven in Holland.

Argentinian Claudio Lopez volleyed the Spanish outfit a fourth-minute lead but Ruud Van Nistelrooy's 72nd-minute spot-kick earned PSV a draw.

The group for convincing winners on Tuesday was group E, where both Real Madrid and leaders Porto crushed their opponents.

Brazilians Januario Esquerdinho (6) and Mario Jardel (47) got the goals which gave the Portuguese outfit their second win in as many matches, over Greek side Olympiakos.

John Toshack's Real outfit were even more impressive, crushing limited Norwegian side Molde 4-1.

Fernando Morientes headed them into a 27th-minute lead before Bortolini Savio took over. Savio, who created the opener, added a second goal on the hour and converted a penalty which made it 3-0 10 minutes later.

Knut Lindbaek pulled a goal back for the Norwegian outfit, but Jose Guti restored the three-goal cushion within 60 seconds to seal the victory.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULTS

Porto	2-0	Olympiakos
Real Madrid	4-1	Molde
Rangers	1-1	Bayern Munich
PSV Eindhoven	1-1	Valencia
Spartak Moscow	1-1	Sparta Prague
Bordeaux	3-2	Willem II
Hertha Berlin	2-1	Chelsea
AC Milan	2-1	Galatasaray
Maribor	0-0	Bayer Leverkusen
Lazio	2-1	Dynamo Kiev
Arsenal	3-1	AIK Solna
Barcelona	4-2	Fiorentina
Borussia Dortmund	3-1	Boavista
Rosenborg	2-2	Feyenoord
Sturm Graz	0-3	Manchester United
Croatia Zagreb	1-2	Marseille

ROUND ONE NSL 99/2000

PARRAMATTA POWER V MARCONI STALLIONS

Parramatta Stadium, Sydney, Friday Oct 1

CANBERRA COSMOS V ADELAIDE FORCE

Bruce Stadium, Canberra, Friday Oct 1

FOOTBALL KINGZ V CARLTON

North Harbour Stadium, Auckland, Friday Oct 1

GIPPSLAND FALCONS V PERTH GLORY

Mobil Park, Gippsland, Saturday Oct 2

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS V BRISBANE

Knights Stadium, Melbourne, Sunday Oct 3

WOLLONGONG V SOUTH MELBOURNE

Brandon Park, Wollongong, Sunday Oct 3

SYDNEY OLYMPIC V NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney, Sunday Oct 3

SYDNEY UNITED V NORTHERN SPIRIT

Edensor Park, Sydney, Monday, October 4

*Draw subject to change. Check local guides



99/2000 SEASON STATEMENT

By Aidan Ormond

So here we are. Three days out from NSL season number 23, the final league start before the new millennium. What our national league will look like at the turn of the next century is anybody's guess - perhaps our strongest franchises will be playing in a Southern Hemisphere Super League? Or NSL sides will be part of 'Superclubs', with teams competing under the same name in various major sports?

The past has seen many changes in the NSL since the first ever season in 1977 (won by Eastern Suburbs Hakoah): different amounts of teams, varying formats, clubs folding, some being forced out, legal action against Soccer Australia, de-ethnicised names, logo changes, different naming rights sponsors, the league being split into two divisions, winter to summer competitions, even clubs folding the week before the league starts. Yes, it's been a wild ride for Australia's oldest national sporting competition, and the current situation with the Adelaide Sharks/Southern Stars/SA Fed side is a piquant reminder of our past and what it means to be part of the league.

Today, our national league is on the cusp of potentially its most exciting season yet. Exciting because the new clubs - firmly eschewing old ways - are looking at soccer as a vehicle for a mainstream, and profitable, existence in Australian society, something that has clearly eluded us in the past.

By any fair judge, Perth Glory is already considered a major sporting entity in Western Australia. Its appearances in last year's finals - pulling over 50,000 for two games - confirmed what has been growing in the last three years since its acceptance in the league under the David Hill era. Australians want Football teams that they feel part of, that relate and reach out to the entire community.

And there is no shortage of corporate interest (Rivkin, IMG, LG) seeing and believing this vision and potential.

The recent Manchester United and FIFA All-Stars tours proof of this, with the up-coming Brazil versus Socceroos tour looking to be another winner at the gate.

Having said that, the appalling coverage of Soccer in Victoria's mainstream media remains an achilles heel - Soccer Australia needs to urgently address this situation.

The Glory example has been followed by the sassy success of Northern Spirit - a Sydney club that has taken the North Shore of Sydney (and beyond) by storm.

Averaging almost 15,000 in its first season (triple the previous league average), it has hit upon the idea that soccer can not only be a great sport to watch, but the watchers, that is the fans, are an integral part of the experience too. Their home games at North Sydney have an atmosphere all their own.

This season's new clubs, Parramatta Power and New Zealand's Football Kingz, loom as similar successes, while Carlton, Newcastle, Canberra, Gippsland and Wollongong show the potential for improvement.

It is exciting because of the possibility that victories over modest sides like Falcons, Cosmos and Knights can, for one lucky side, result in the world's most glamorous sides as opposition. The World Club Championship now beckons for the winner of the national league.

Never before has such an incentive been there for our teams. To take on a Manchester United or a River Plate under tournament conditions, with large sums of money (at least a million) and global TV exposure thrown in, makes this the most significant improvement for our sides in the league's history.

The fact that it was a FIFA initiative does not vitiate the point; our clubs have something truly worthy to aim for and it will improve the players and our league's standing.

South Melbourne has just returned from Fiji after winning a spot in the Brazil-based inaugural World Club Championship in January 2000.

It's exciting because some of our foundation member clubs - South Melbourne, Adelaide Force and Marconi - have risen to the challenge, aiming to reposition their previously narrow public perception with strong marketing plans.

These are proud clubs, with history and tradition, who do want to be part of what can be a prosperous future.

And if our new Australian-born LG Socceroo coach Frank Farina can somehow steer us through to the 2002 World Cup, the sky's surely the limit.

Enjoy your summer of soccer, I know we will.

A MESSAGE FROM BASIL SCARSELLA soccer australia chairman



With three days to go before the NSL begins its new campaign, Australian soccer is in a strong position.

The recent announcement of the LG sponsorship of the Socceroos, the Joeys qualifying for the World U/17 Cup, plus the fine form of our Olympic side and our players generally worldwide, means Australian soccer is heading into the new millennium with considerable optimism.

This new season is a transitional one for the NSL as we move into the rationalisation of the league for the 2000/2001 season.

All indications are that the new clubs will be a positive addition to the league, with both Parramatta Power and the Football Kingz looking to market the game of soccer on a professional basis.

It is also gratifying that clubs such as Marconi

Stallions are putting so much money into their promotions and marketing.

So now we are seeing a critical mass of half a dozen clubs in our NSL who are doing this - promoting the game to the mainstream market, which is clearly the way to go in terms of being a viable proposition in the national league.

I think the future is very bright for our game and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Inside Soccer, and its readers, for its continuing support of Australian Soccer.

top six nsl TIPS

GREG BLAKE

(C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR AND INSIDE SOCCER COLUMNIST)

South, Carlton, Power, Spirit, Marconi, Glory.

ALAN HUNTER (ABC COMMENTATOR)

South, Spirit, Glory, Marconi, Power, Carlton

JIMMY PATIKAS (FORMER SOCCEROO AND GREEK FIRST DIV)

South, Wollongong, Carlton, Sydney Olympic,

Marconi, Perth Glory

BONNIE MERSEADES

(NSW FED MARKETING MANAGER)

Marconi, Power, South, Spirit, Force,

Auckland Kingz

CRAIG WILSON

(EDITOR, LOOSEHEAD)

South, Marconi, Spirit, Glory, Power, Carlton.

THE FOUR DIEGOS SOCCER SHOW (MELB)

Marconi, South, Spirit, Power, Glory, Carlton

COAST FM SOCCER (ADELAIDE)

Donald: Marconi, Perth Glory, Paramatta

Power, Carlton, Adelaide Force, South

Melbourne. Margaret: Paramatta Power,

South Melbourne, Perth Glory, Adelaide

Force, Sydney Olympic, Newcastle

POWER'S COACHING BRAVEHEARTS!

If you take a drive from Ibrox Park, the home of the mighty Glasgow Rangers, some 35 kilometres to the south you'll find Rugby Park, the home of Kilmarnock F.C.

Between 1983-85, David Mitchell wore with pride the colours of Rangers while his assistant at Parramatta Power Lawrie McKinna from 1982-85 donned the blue and white of Kilmarnock (the Killies).

Some would say it was destiny that the two should meet in Australia more than a decade later to form, what might

"However, I still had this burning ambition to try my luck overseas and to make this happen I paid Sydney City \$30,000 to buy out my contract mid-way through the 1983 season.

Rangers signed Mitchell for the 1983/84 season to start a career which would lead him through Europe, Turkey and Malaysia before he would come home to Australia.

Meanwhile, at the age of 19 Lawrie McKinna had only starting taking football seriously - he had preferred to follow his

over the highly-rated Italian side, which included players of the quality of Karl-Heinz Rummenige and Liam Brady".

The next big match McKinna witnessed Mitchell play was in the first leg World Cup tie in October 1985, when Australia played the might of Scotland at Hampden Park (including Kenny Dalglish, Graham Souness and Mitchell's former team-mate at Rangers, the unpredictable and gifted Davie Cooper.)

When the band started to play *Scotland the Brave*, David Mitchell had realised his dream but his loyalty to the Socceroos was so strong that even the words of his native homeland's anthem chorused by 63,000 fanatical supporters couldn't take his mind off the task.

As history records Australia lost that match 2-0, but one could never forget the return leg in Melbourne when half way through the first half, Mitchell left the Scottish defender Malpas stranded and played a near inch perfect ball to John Kosmina, who directed his header with great power towards the enemy goal.

The crowd stood by in silence as Jim Leighton, the Scottish keeper made a miraculous save to deny Australia a chance to play themselves back into the tie (which finished 2-0 on aggregate for

relegation to the State League he remained with the club for several seasons.

Being the fearless striker he was didn't come without some pain as he broke a leg and ruptured a kidney during his Australian career.

David Mitchell was enjoying life in Europe as he was receiving the recognition he would never experience in club football in Australia.

After leaving Eintracht he played for Feyenoord, Chelsea, Swindon Town, Trabzonspor, Millwall and Selangor, but he always wanted to play for the Socceroos. Frank Arok in particular respected Mitchell for his dedication and national pride.

Mitchell appeared in the 1988 Olympics and the unsuccessful efforts to qualify for the 1990 and 1994 World Cups.

He doesn't hide the fact that he was bitterly disappointed in not being used by Eddie Thomson in the matches against Argentina in 1993 but believes historians will make their own judgement about those events.

Life was rather peaceful for Lawrie McKinna while coaching Hills District in the N.S.W. Super League in 1995 and 1996 until an opportunity finally came his way.

David Mitchell was coaching Sydney Olympic the following season and needed an assistant coach because Terry Butler, the former Apia in the job at the time, couldn't commit himself to the job.

On the advice of David Barrett, McKinna called Mitchell and after a few meetings he was given the job.

The rest is history.

Last season Mitchell and McKinna conquered all but the Grand Final. They now have a new challenge with Parramatta Power but everyone involved with the game knows they can succeed.

Mitchell, the man who scored 13 goals in European competition regrets he wasn't appointed as national coach but with dogged determination will not stop to ensure Parramatta Power will be a success on the park.

As McKinna says, "We share the same thought processes about the game and that's the underlying reason for our results to date."

It just might also be shades of the Scottish legend Braveheart which inspires David Mitchell and Lawrie McKinna to such great heights.



Two great footballing brains and great mates. Power's coaching team of Lawrie McKinna and David Mitchell (front).

POWERING PARRAMATTA'S BID FOR SOCCER SUCCESS IS THE COACHING TEAM OF DAVID MITCHELL AND LAWRIE MCKINNA. ROGER SLEEMAN CAUGHT UP WITH THIS DYNAMIC DUO ON THE EVE OF FRIDAY NIGHT'S BIG KICK-OFF AT THE PARRAMATTA STADIUM AGAINST MARCONI.

prove to be one of the most effective coaching combinations ever seen in the National League.

Both McKinna and Mitchell shared a dream as young players: that was to play for Rangers, although ironically it was only Mitchell who achieved that goal even if it was done via Adelaide and Sydney.

Mitchell had been a star performer in the 1981 World Youth Cup. Who could ever forget the fantastic win by Australia at the Sydney Sports Ground in October, 1981 when Australia defeated the world champions Argentina 2-1, with a runaway goal scored by Mitchell being the catalyst for the victory.

It had been a grand season for the lightning fast striker as he also picked up a National League winners medal with Sydney City as well a semi final place in that WYC

"The Sydney City team was a class outfit but when you have a team which included the likes of Kosmina, Boden, Watson, Barnes, Mullen Muniz, Souness, Robertson, Clarke and O'Connor. You really couldn't experience a better class of football in Australia," recalls Mitchell.

beloved Rangers round Europe rather than pursue a career in football.

Despite the interest of several clubs, he signed professional terms for Kilmarnock in 1982.

McKinna was one of these fanatical professionals who would play in the first team at the weekend and backup in the reserves midweek. He remembers playing against David Mitchell in a couple of reserve matches when Mitchell first arrived at Rangers.

However, he also witnessed the exploits of David Mitchell in the top flight at Rangers, and nothing stands in his mind more than the night Mitchell scored against Inter Milan in a first-leg tie of the European Cup.

"It's almost as though it happened yesterday, the night's events are still so clear in my mind," relates McKinna.

"Ally McCoist shot on goal forcing a parry from the keeper but it wasn't enough to prevent David from following up in the six yard box and hammering the ball into the back of the net.

"The Rangers fans went wild with the final score finishing 3-1 for the Ibrox men



the Scots thus qualifying them for Mexico '86.)

When Lawrie McKinna left Scotland to come to Australia in 1986, he played for Box Hill in the Victorian State League. He arrived at Wembley Park having scored 25 goals for Kilmarnock in just over 100 games, not a bad record for a player who had turned professional at a fairly late stage.

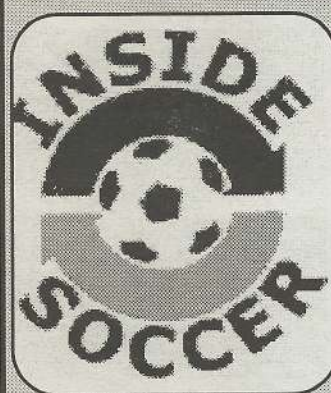
Meanwhile, David Mitchell had departed for Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga after leaving his beloved Rangers in 1985.

This club was all about tradition and Mitchell was well acquainted with the club's historic match against Real Madrid in the European Cup Final of 1960 played at Hampden Park, recognised as the greatest final of all.

It was the day Puskas, Di Stefano and company showed the world how the game should really be played when romping to a 7-3 victory.

McKinna was a stand out in the Victorian State League and he was signed by Heidelberg for the 1987 NSL season, followed by a season for Apia Leichhardt in 1988 where, again, he was a consistent scorer.

Blacktown City was his NSL home for a season during 1989 and after their



1/24 Prince William Drive,
Seven Hills NSW 2147

PHONE: (02) 9838 4888

FAX: (02) 9838 4791

MANAGING EDITOR: JOHN VRTARIC
Email: johnv@insidesoccer.com.au
EDITOR: AIDAN ORMOND
E-mail: editor@insidesoccer.com.au

CONTRIBUTORS: Alan Clark, Nick Guoth, Mark Fisher, Kevin Christopher, Greg Welsh, Ben Cubby, Melissa Muscat, Sally Orpin, Margaret

Bowden, Steven Webb, Michael Reeves, Kim Carter, Donald Campbell, Paul Goodwin, Chris Dunkerley, Cameron Atfield, Luciano Viggiano, Dylan Durie, Dennis Gedling, Bruce Hollaway, Roger Sleeman

Advertising: Sydney: John Vrtaric (02) 9838 4888 or 0412 698 185
Melbourne: Greg Blake (03) 9370 1217
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Power

on this

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night!



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